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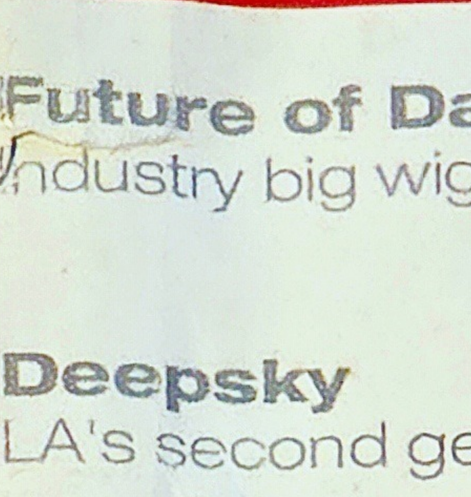
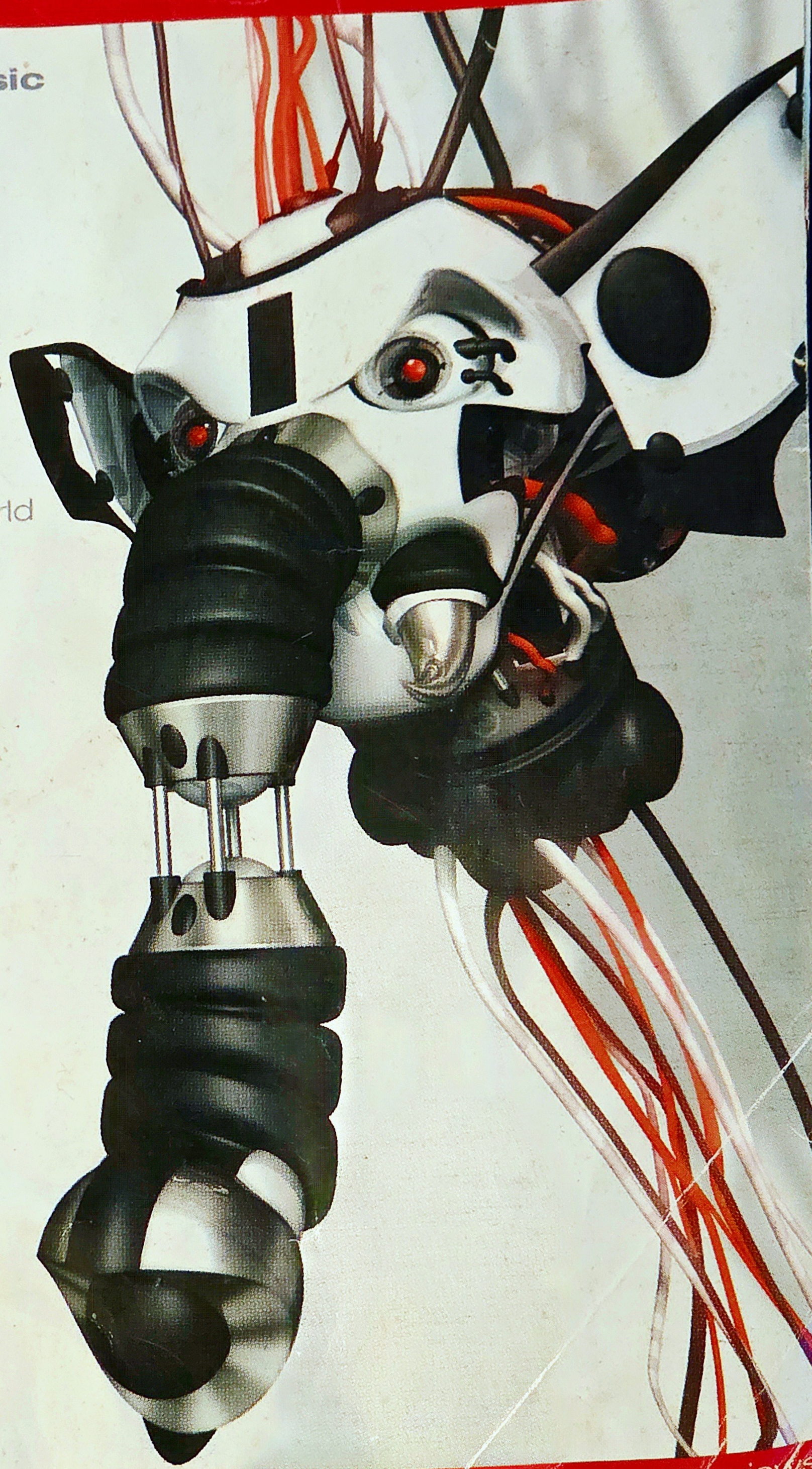
Future of Dance Music
industry big wigs talk shop

Deepsky
LA's second generation

Billy "Daniel" Bunter
the UK's biggest 12 inches

Weekly Raver News
news from around the world





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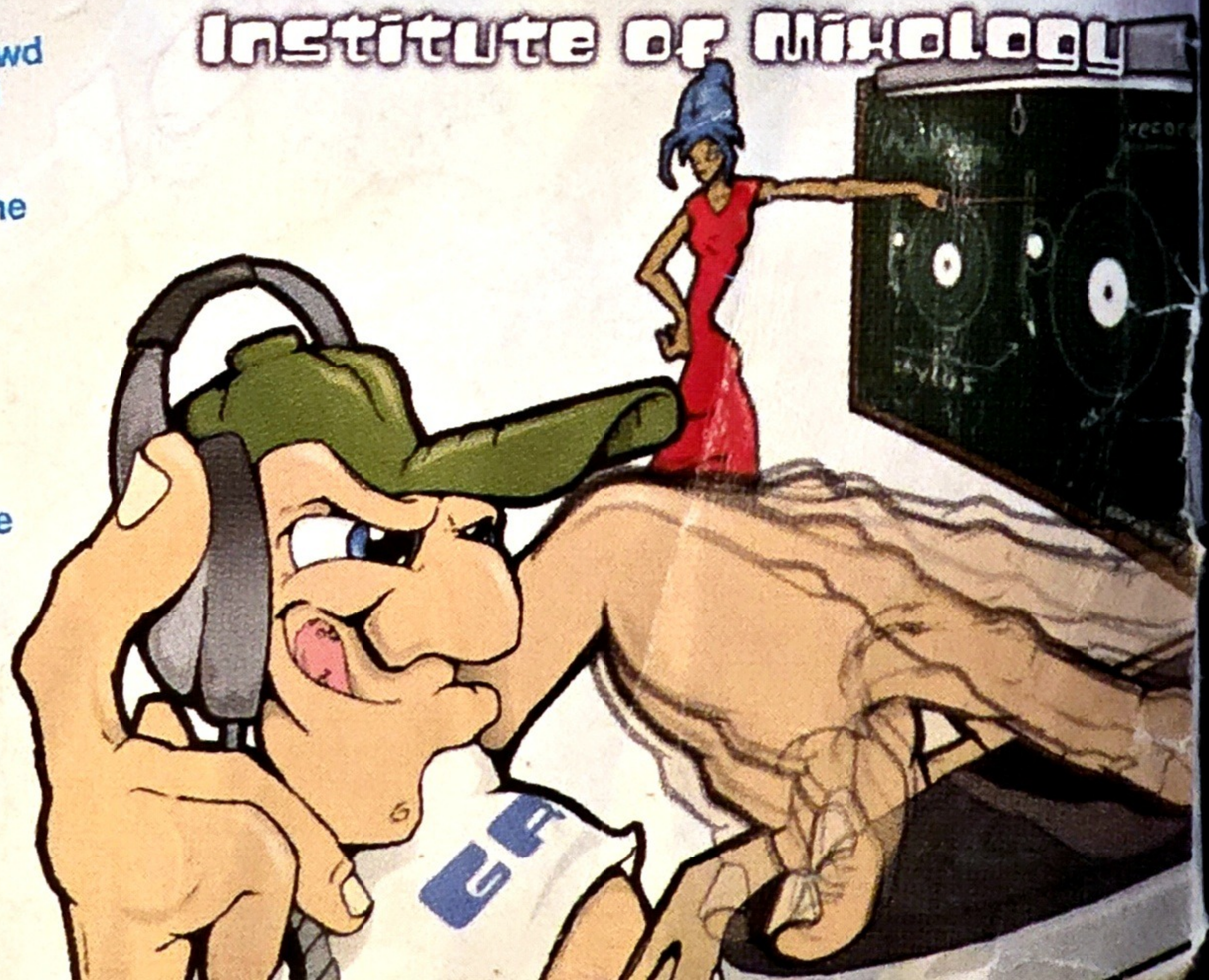

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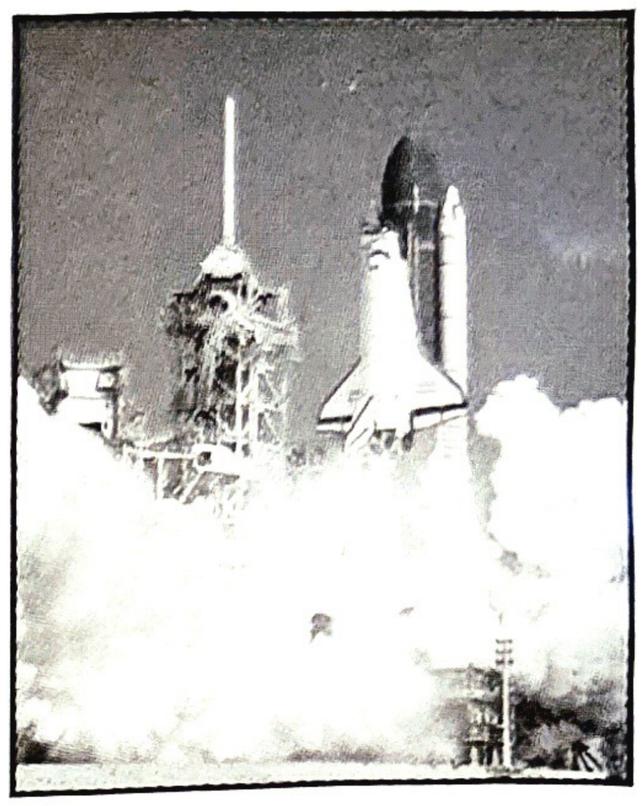
WEEKLY RAVER NEWS

RAVER TO TRADE CANDY FOR SPACE SHUTTLE FLIGHT!

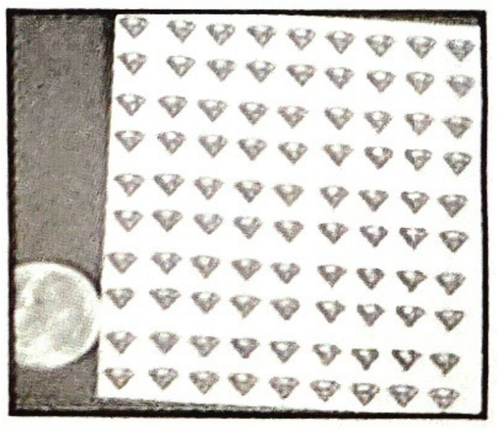


This spring, Tony "Tigger" Sanchez may be the first raver in space. Tony is currently having talks with top NASA officials to take flight on a space shuttle mission in April based on a trade agreement of him giving them all of his candy. It turns, out that NASA isn't only interested in small shiny objects in space, but here on Earth too! The talks first began when Mr. Sanchez approached NASA about an experiment he wanted to try out. His suggested experiment is to attempt to take pictures from space of the United States to find new locations for raves. NASA so far has been unavailable for comment.

CRAZY RAVER KILLS TWENTY AT K-MART!

Everything was okay so it seemed when Jason left his local K-MART, but apparently that wasn't the case. Jason had gotten into a heated argument with an unknown customer over the last pair of phat pants. Jason then calmly left the store, just to return minutes later with two shotguns, and started shooting people at random. After police arrived, Jason shot himself after writing a note that said only these few words, "All I wanted were a pair of phat pants." Jason's parents weren't available for comment, but his sister Joy, said "Jason has always been like that. He once got mad and broke a toaster when he wasn't allowed to eat only the marshmallows out of a box of Lucky Charms."

NEW SUPER POWER ACID! READ PEOPLE'S MIND WITH ONE HIT, SEE THROUGH THEIR CLOTHES WITH TWO!



New government developed acid gives people super powers! Amy, who asked that we keep her real name secret told Weekly Raver News that she was the first to be released from a secret government test program where everyday for almost two months they were given different doses of pharmaceutical grade acid. She said, "This wasn't street acid, this was government made, so I though it would be safe." Later she explained that, "some people in the group were starting to fly, while others could see through your clothes. It got really creepy so I asked to leave." But it wasn't that easy she commented at the end of the interview, "They didn't want me to leave, they thought I would use my super powers against them. I had to reassure them that I would only use them against bad people."

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The Future of Dance Music:
Industry Big Wigs Talk Shop

by Mike Fix

In the ever changing world of electronic dance music anything can happen, and usually does. We here at Freebass thought it was time to check the body temperature and see what some of the industry's biggest big wigs were feelin'.

Name: **Steve Levy**
Title: **President**
Label: **Moonshine Music**
Web: **moonshine.com**

Steve Levy

What do you think is going to be the future for dance music?
Depends what you mean by the question. I think breaks are going to make a comeback. I hope so anyway. I also think that there is going to be more of a merging of the production values of various forms of dance music like drum & bass and breaks with songs.

Who do you predict will be the next big artist?
I think Kosheen has the potential to be huge. Amazing songs, amazing production. Amazing album period!

Who do you predict will be the next big DJ?
There's a few people on the up at the moment. D:Fuse for one. Misstress Barbara as well. I don't think the top names are going to change. You'll see Carl Cox's profile up in the U.S. again after a hiatus last year.

What city do you think is going to the next hot spot?
I had a good night out in Seattle a little while ago. Denver is rocking hard at the moment. L.A. is on fire though.

What labels, other than yours, do you see as the leaders into the next few years?
Ultra is doing well and on the up. Kinetic if they can put Kosheen or Timo Maas away. V2 is making a commitment to electronic music. Moonshine is still the leader though!

Dance music has made so much progress in the last few years, what do you think should be done to help make it bigger?
Openness by the local authorities to allow both large scale events and regular club nights to happen unhassled. Professionalism by the promoters and responsibility by the punters will help this happen. This will help it build further at street level. Also a couple of U.S. acts breaking at radio and MTV wouldn't hurt.

Shameless plug?
The new albums from Cirrus and gusgus are wicked. Tall Paul's artist album also rocks and shows why he is at the top of his game in Europe.

Name: **Andrew Goldstone**
Title: **Co-Head of A&R**
Label: **Ministry of Sound America**
Web: **ministryofsound.com**

What do you think is going to be the future for dance music?
I don't think that there is anything specific that is the future of dance music. The boundaries will keep expanding further into rock, pop and hip-hop and there will be resurgences of music from past era's. We have already seen this with a return to progressive house, a new wave of new wave and the re-emergence of ambient, which has evolved into chillout.

Who do you predict will be the next big artist?
Zero 7 is quickly developing into the this year's Portishead. Their brilliant production and use of organic sounds puts them head and shoulders above nearly everyone else in the rapidly expanding downtempo scene. On the more underground tip, I think fischerspooner are brilliant. Their sound and style is simply amazing.

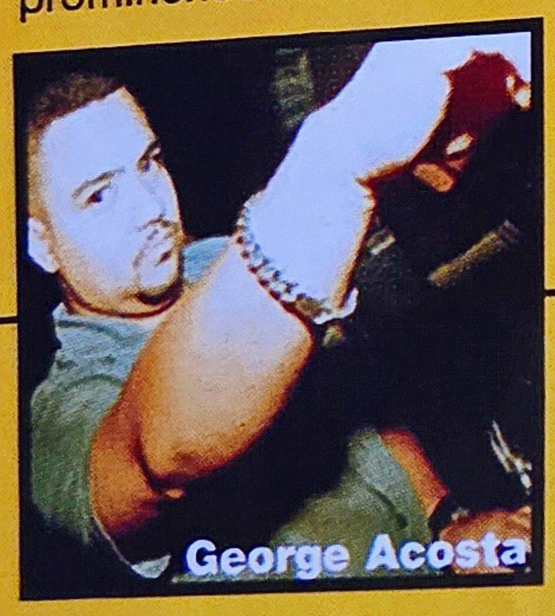
Who do you predict will be the next big DJ?
I think Tiesto will emerge as a force in America as he is one of the few foreign DJs willing to put in the time and effort to make headway in this country. Out of the Americans I have always believed in Christopher Lawrence and I'd like to see him rise in prominence on a worldwide level.

What city do you think is going to the next hot spot?
personally I don't think of cities as hot spots. There are cities with dance radio stations that tend to have a more commercial scene (Orlando, Miami) and then there are cities with no outlets that have thriving underground scenes (Austin). Each city has its own advantages and disadvantages...

What labels, other than yours, do you see as the leaders into the next few years?
Ultra is clearly making a strong move into the commercial world while still doing great underground singles and albums. Domestically I love what Emperor Norton is doing album wise and there are so many great domestic singles labels from Greyhound to Pitch Black to Relief.

Dance music has made so much progress in the last few years, what do you think should be done to help make it bigger?
It needs more radio play and more MTV exposure, there are so few outlets to expose music I really hope that satellite radio catches on.

Shameless plug?
The Chillout Session was a six month labor of love for me and DB. It's totally different from all the UK Ministry Chillout CDs and we are incredibly proud of the spectrum and quality of artists on the compilation. Also look out for the Static Revenger and Skull Valley albums hitting in the summer of 2002...



Name: **Patrick Moxey**
Title: **Owner**
Label: **Ultra Records**
Web: **Ultrarecords.com**

What do you think is going to be the future for dance music?
We need stronger songs and artist development to broaden the music's appeal.

Who do you predict will be the next big artist?
Zero 7 are an excellent electronic band, and I hope they will blow up all the way.

Who do you predict will be the next big DJ?
From America, George Acosta. George never sleeps, he's constantly on the road making it happen.

What city do you think is going to the next hot spot?
The scene in Las Vegas and Miami will continue to grow, not sure there's another next hot spot right now.

What labels, other than yours, do you see as the leaders into the next few years?
Six Degrees, I love what they do with Bebel Gilberto etc. Studio K also always come with interesting projects.

Dance music has made so much progress in the last few years, what do you think should be done to help make it bigger?
Entrepreneurs need to believe their artists, and go after radio, touring and TV as much as possible. That's the way to get dance into the mainstream.

Shameless plug?
The Ultra series is off to a flying start with Ultra Chilled, Ultra Dance. We'll try to keep the quality of the repertoire and packaging high and our double cd price down (although the retailers mark it up anyway!). Dan the Automator DJ mix "Wanna Buy a Monkey" on our new Sequence imprint, it's going to blow up.

Name: **William Godoy**
Label: **Nettwerk America**
Title: **A&R/National Dance Promotion**
Web: **nettwerkamerica.com**

What do you think is going to be the future for dance music?
At this point, the future of dance music has have no where to go but up. Having seen the community 'ebb and flow' in the last 11 years it's easy to see that at no other time in dance culture does our community need a resurgence than now. With all that's happened in the world at present time, and the heavy crackdown from local & federal government on our scene, I can only really see it rebounding and flourishing once again. There's a new generation of producers & DJs out their who are working hard at this everyday. Also in this time will be sure to also find a new generation of Ravers, Ravers turned Clubbers, and Ravers & Clubbers turned music heads who sit at home and listen to choons.

Who do you predict will be the next big artist?
This always a tough question, but what I can say is this.
On the Progressive tip, I'm really loving what I'm hearing from the likes of Lee Combs and Ashley Casselle. Combs is finding this genius place between progressive house and progressive breaks. Ashley always brings an elegant and deep delivery on the floor. On the Techno/House tip, I've got to give it up to my favorite people in the world right now, Angel Alanis, DJ Colette, and DJ Heather. Each of them are brilliant at what they do and are really bringing a positive outlook to their work, day in and day out. Colette has been such a light for her sound. I can't thank her enough for sharing her music.

Who do you predict will be the next big DJ?
Any of the before mentioned are definitely on my list. In regards to what we're doing here at Nettwerk, DJ Tiësto and Colette have really taken off as of recent. I really expect to see nothing but a great future for them both.

What city do you think is going to the next hot spot?
Since I was born here in LA, I'll always give props to the people who make Los Angeles such great city for Dance Music. With all the permit and club drama unfolding, it's been tough to say the least within the last year. To tell you the truth all I hear are good stories coming from Phoenix. It's a great scene with tons of energy and all the right people trying to make it happen. Especially, folks at Freedom, Sanctuary, AZ-Raves and most all Ryan&Sarah at Dream Music. Phoenix's Scene is a great example of people rebounding from a collapse and coming back to give a resurgence into their dance community.

What labels, other than yours, do you see as the leaders into the next few years?
Bliss is my favorite label at the moment. Rama and Co. have really been pushing the progressive sound in America. Their releases are challenging and are an excellent blend of the premier progressive house producers & djs today.

Dance music has made so much progress in the last few years, what do you think should be done to help make it bigger?
That's easy! We should really concentrate on making our local scene thrive. We can do this by continuing to support and BOOK our AMERICAN producers and DJs. Using the X amount of dollars that could be saved by booking a US DJ, can ultimately be put into making the party or club a better production. I can not begin to express how much I believe in the US and what could happen if we took a little time to recognize what a beautiful scene we have here. There's so many different things that can be addressed about this one question, but I will leave it to that true point. America should relish it's own.

Shameless plug?
Go Dodgers!

Name: **Shawn Francis**
Title: **Press & Publicity**
Label: **Instinct / Shadow Records**
Web: **instinctrecords.com**

What do you think is going to be the future for dance music?
I won't go as far as to speak for dance music as a whole, but I will say that after work/early evening clubbing will continue to catch on. As the "chemical generation" get jobs, get married, get mortgages, and get older, we just can't go for it like we used to. It's already caught on in a big way in the deep house scene; just look at institutions like Body & Soul NYC (start time 4pm on Sunday afternoon), Lazy Dog London (start time 4pm Sunday afternoon, at capacity by 4:45), & up-and-coming nights like In Deep London (7pm-midnight on a Fri.) and Chateau Noir@Nativa NYC (7pm-midnight on a Thurs.)

Who do you predict will be the next big artist?
Silicone Soul. They've been doing what they do for years, but it seems that people are just now getting their heads around to the fact that you can have dark drums, AND be funky in a disco way. They split the difference between hard/tech-house and proper deep house. RIGHT ON! KEEP ON!

Who do you predict will be the next big DJ?
D:Fuse, because of his Oakey association, or Jimmy Van M for his Sash & Diggers association. This is not a diss, just stating that the type of music they play is massive at the moment, they are both Americans who are capable of becoming the regular Dons while the lords they open for are playing in Malaysia or somewhere equally exotic.

What city do you think is going to the next hot spot?
Punta del Este, Uraguay....because when it's cold everywhere else it's warm there!

What labels, other than yours, do you see as the leaders into the next few years?
Chez, because Neil Aline knows how to balance the quality over quantity equation & Defected, because they keep putting out proper sexy house records that are so good straight men aren't afraid to dance to them. Oh, and not to forget Credence...there records have an accessability, and they've recently inked a deal with Nettwerk (an EMI label) in America, so they'll reach a huge audience outside the clubs.

Dance music has made so much progress in the last few years, what do you think should be done to help make it bigger?
So far the British Govt. has had the best idea yet; the only way a bar, club or pub can be open past 11pm is if they have a late license. To get that you have to have a band or a DJ...and lord knows a DJ is cheaper, and requires less room. That's why we can hear Sandy Riviera in the McDonalds when we go there on holiday.

Shameless plug?
Check out my mix cd DUBLIFE out on Shadow Records in Feb. Also check out the new Lazy Dog record out on Astralwerks in March. Free ODB!

Name: **Jeanne Klafin**
Title: **National Director of Marketing, Video, and Club Promotion.**
Label: **Mute**
Web: **mute.com**

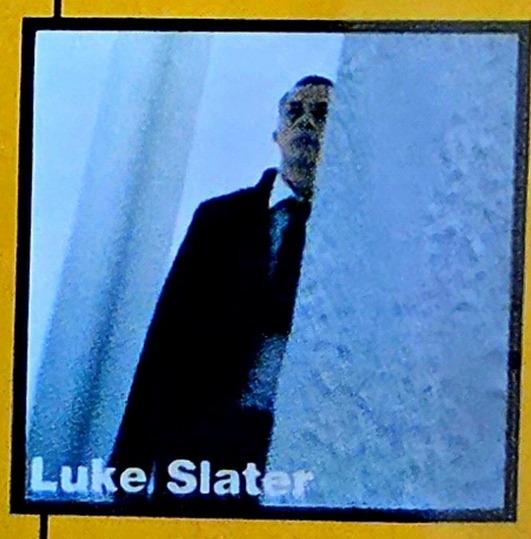
What do you think is going to be the future for dance music?
The future of dance music -- and all music, really -- lies in the scope of creativity within people. Creative and forward-thinking music surfaces when an artist combines their own musical intentions and creativity with an understanding of great music of the past and present, using this as a reference point. When an artist creates music truly as an expression of their ideas and emotions, it's usually evident. It's also usually evident when it's not.

Who do you predict will be the next big artist?
There are many artists that I wish success, such as Farmer's Manual, Fennesz, Carsten Nicolai, and every artist I have the pleasure of working with. So many people are making such amazing music, though; too many to list!

Who do you predict will be the next big DJ?
No prediction here, as I feel DJ culture, in general, is a bit out of control.

What city do you think is going to the next hot spot?
I don't feel good talent is defined geographically, really, but Reykjavik, Iceland is a fun place to listen to great music.

What labels, other than yours, do you see as the leaders into the next few years?
There are too many to mention.



Dance music has made so much progress in the last few years, what do you think should be done to help make it bigger?
It's hard to say, as I feel making the dance music community better is more important than making it bigger.

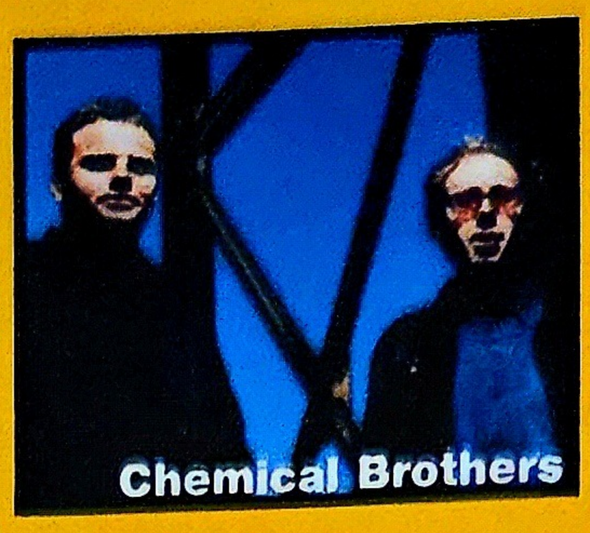
Shameless plug?
Mute strives in releasing quality music by truly talented artists, and I feel this is a very important trait in a record label. (Mute publicist, Roberta Moore, adds "look for new album by Luke Slater in April and a new Spundae Compilation mixed by CASS this summer!)

Name: **Brian Perera**
Title: **Owner**
Label: **Hypnotic/Cleopatra**
Web: **cleorecs.com**

What do you think is going to be the future for dance music?
Continue to be prominently House Music mixed with a deep funk flavor. Because House is the most accessible form of current dance music and it has a crossover appeal for people who like hip-hop, trance and old school to current.

Who do you predict will be the next big artist?
I don't see any current artists who can compete with already established acts such as Fatboy Slim, Basement Jaxx, Chemical Bros., etc. Because most of the money in the marketing has been sunk into those bands for the last 5-6 years.

Who do you predict will be the next big DJ?
The next big DJ is the big current DJ right now...Paul Oakenfold. Why? Who was the King of Rock and Roll...Elvis. Oakenfold's already been established as the King of the turntables...


Chemical Brothers

Basement Jaxx

What city do you think is going to the next hot spot?
Chicago Or Vegas, Why? It already attracts people from different parts of the world. LA & NY both have their limitations.

What labels, other than yours, do you see as the leaders into the next few years?
Moonshine & Astralwerks, Ministry Of Sound Because they've already placed a huge dent in dance music with continued longevity. Great marketing and branding.

Dance music has made so much progress in the last few years, what do you think should be done to help make it bigger?
Electronic artists with more vocal hooks will continually make dance music bigger.

Shameless plug?
Taking one spectrum of music (Reggae) and fusing it with another (House Music.) I was responsible for the Bob Marley / Funkstar De Luxe remix track, "Sun Is Shining," which sold millions in Europe and re-releasing the Kraftwerk back catalog in the early 90s before anyone cared...

Name: Matt Streitel
Title: Owner/Music Director
Label: ICU Records / ICU Media
Web: icumedia.com

Matt Streitel

What do you think is going to be the future for dance music?
As a result of Sept. 11th..I mean because of the downfall in the economy there will be a lot of change within the industry. A lot of cleaning house. All promoters, record labels, A&R people and DJs that are not running a very strong business will be weeded out and the survivors will be the higher quality people who are dedicated to the scene and the advancement of the industry and who run good business. I believe this change will lead to a higher level of quality within this industry.

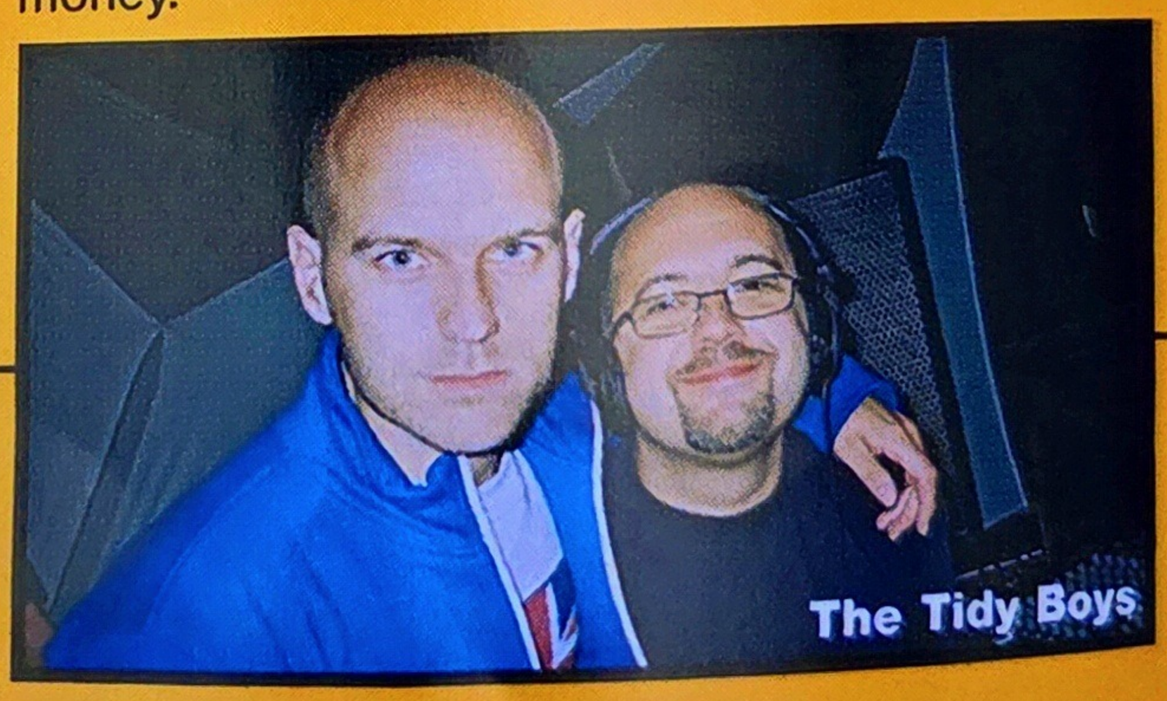
Who do you predict will be the next big artist?
I believe "Gyrate" a live act, and also a member of the ICU family, will unleash his musical talent on the masses this year. He has incomparable skills as a producer and a composer. His versatility and musical ability allow him to master any sound. Music insiders already raving about Gyrate.

Who do you predict will be the next big DJ?
The Tidy Boys will be the next big act here in the US. Not only do they have a high-energy sound that keeps crowds pumped, they also run one of the most successful record labels in the UK. They are all around successful guys that have great things to offer our dance community.

What city do you think is going to the next hot spot?
I think that the next hot spots will be in international cities. I think the US is a little tired right now and it will take some time before it really picks up again. Asia, and South America are countries that are in the infancy of embracing the electronic music industry whether it is albums, artists, events etc. These markets hold huge unexplored potential for our industry.

What labels, other than yours, do you see as the leaders into the next few years?
Well, I would say Tidy's merge with ICU over the next year, is going to make a new mark in the US dance community. Does that count as other than ours?? The Tidy label has consistently put out quality tracks that have had high sales and good response. In the next few years label leaders will not only have to be innovative, but also have a effective business sense that will keep them prosperous during economically hard times.

Dance music has made so much progress in the last few years, what do you think should be done to help make it bigger?
Big firms need to stop hiring poor A&R guys who look good, but do not know what they are doing. They need to start looking at "the know" and work with people that really have knowledge of the industry and its key players. This will eventually lead the big record labels into trusting the electronic sector again and we can all make some money.


The Tidy Boys

Name: **Justin Nichols**
Title: **A&R Director / Project Manager**
Label: **Astralwerks**
Web: **astralwerks.com**

What do you think is going to be the future for dance music?
I think it will continue to grow and cross over to a wider market but will still be a slow process. The music seems to be heading more electro and on heaver electronic tip as well as a fusions with alternative. Trends and interests are changing every day and people are always looking for something new or familiar.

Who do you predict will be the next big artist?
I don't know yet but when I sign them I will let you know.

Who do you predict will be the next big DJ?
There are many DJ coming up the ranks and the next big one will probably be not just from his skills but from his production as well.

What city do you think is going to the next hot spot?
I think that many of the smaller towns will start having the hot spots. It is getting more and more difficult to have consistent clubs or strong parties when there is so much politics in the big cities.

What labels, other than yours, do you see as the leaders into the next few years?
I am a fan of any label that puts out great and innovative music.

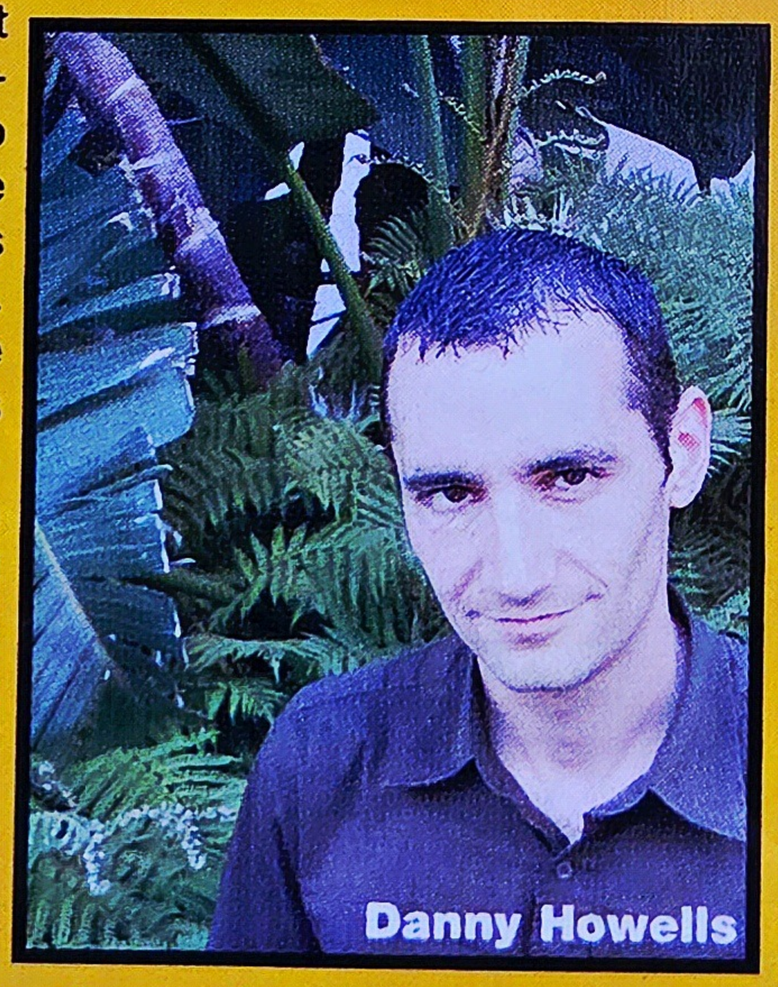
Dance music has made so much progress in the last few years, what do you think should be done to help make it bigger?
Dance music will have to continue at the consistent pace that it is at. People need to continue to go out and see there favorite DJ's as well as bands and be open to new music.

Name: **Joe Natoli**
Title: **Co-Owner**
Label: **Brooklyn Music Ltd.**
Web: **brooklynmuisc.com**

What do you think is going to be the future for dance music?
I feel that the future of Dance music here in America will be more of a hybrid of the various genres of Electronic dance. For example, I see the further fusion of Drum N Bass and Hip hop. I see more massaging of the pure extremes into a more mass appealing genre, such as Tech-House. Lastly, I see the abandonment of the purist extremes to a much more serious level. I feel that these trends shall occur because of two major reasons:
1) The US economy and 2) the extreme saturation of "poor" music and production that began in late 1998 and culminated with high energy, cheese trance last summer.

Our economy dictates lower sales. There is a market cap on Dance music in America. That cap has been reached, stretched, and pushed so far beyond the envelope that it warranted that now it is difficult to sell even the best of the best in any given dance genre. Artists that were Sound Scanning 20,000-30,000 units 2 years ago are lucky if they can get 10,000 units in the market place. This applies not only to record sales, but bookings, parties and turnouts.

Who do you predict will be the next big artist?
I honestly can not predict the next phenomenon because of the current state of the economy. Sad to say, but I think that we are all aware of the fact that talent usually has nothing, or very little to do with it. So, I would venture to say that the next "big" artist shall be one that is perhaps talented, but more importantly, is realistic. Couple that with a Record label that is realistic and knowledgeable, and then perhaps you have yourself the next Techno Rock Star!



Who do you predict will be the next big DJ?
I feel that Danny Howells will be the next "big" DJ because he is a likable, excellent DJ. In addition, he spins a blend of progressive house, tek house, and techno, and as I mentioned above, these styles are afforded the luxury of NOT being fully exploited as of yet. Lastly, he has a steady history of mixed cd's WORLDWIDE, and he is a Global DJ...all the right stuff to make you forget about the current trance superstars faster than you can say Ibiza!!!

What city do you think is going to the next hot spot?
Philadelphia. There are a plethora of amazing young producers and DJ's. As well as a full stable of seasoned Veterans, it is a college town. There are weekly parties. There is a healthy "scene". Lastly, it is one of the few cities that supports multi-genres equally (well almost equally).

What labels, other than yours, do you see as the leaders into the next few years?
I see artist/producer owned and operated labels as "taking charge" in the next few years. As conventional distribution is fighting to stay alive, and methods that used to be unobtainable for the smaller guys (financially) become available, ultimately it is going to be more about the music and less about the "connections" and retail spending. I feel that some of the top labels in this category are:
1 Tango Recordings
2 Bluem Recordings
3 Critikal Records (NYC)

Dance music has made so much progress in the last few years, what do you think should be done to help make it bigger?
I feel that less "HYPE", and more reality insomuch as real talent is concerned shall yield not only longevity for artists, but for their respective labels, and genres as a whole. Also, it is imperative that artists, DJ's and agents come back down to reality as far as their "fees" are concerned. With the current state of things being truly "tight"(money wise), people have to realize that things are Not what they were a year and a half ago. If no one is willing to drop their fees a little, then this entire Fragile animal is going to die, or at least be reduced to something that is sadly reminiscent of what once was so beautiful and attractive to all of us were initially seduced. This also applies to record labels, as many labels are Way, way, way, out of control as far as how much they are charging for licenses. I mean if you want $2000 for a one time non-exclusive license of a track that was only available on vinyl as an import form an artist that is not that well known to the mass public for inclusion on a mixed CD that is only going to sell maybe 10,000 units, then hey, ya know what????...keep it!!

Shameless plug?
I'm not about the HYPE!!!!

I'd like to thank everyone that took the time out of their busy schedules to answer these questions. The future is going to thunder.
-mike fix

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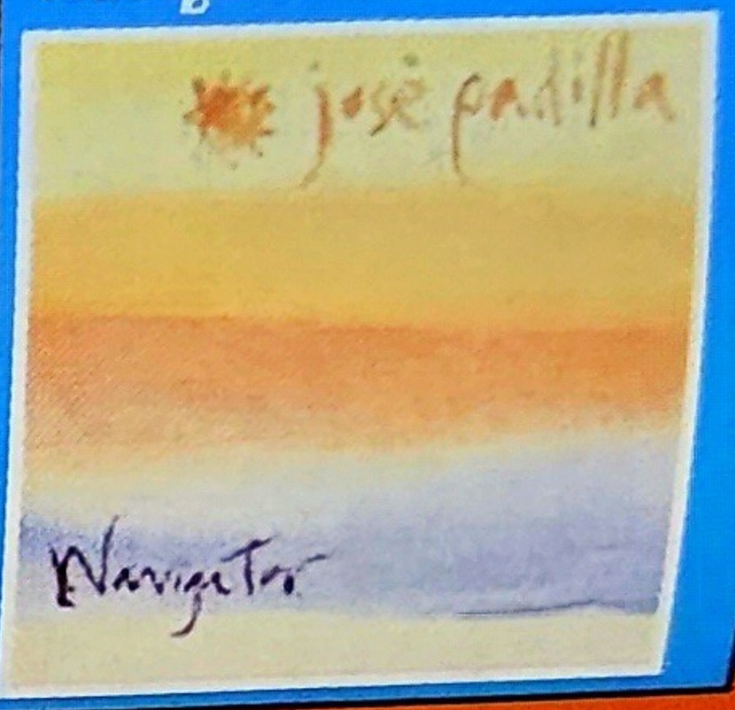

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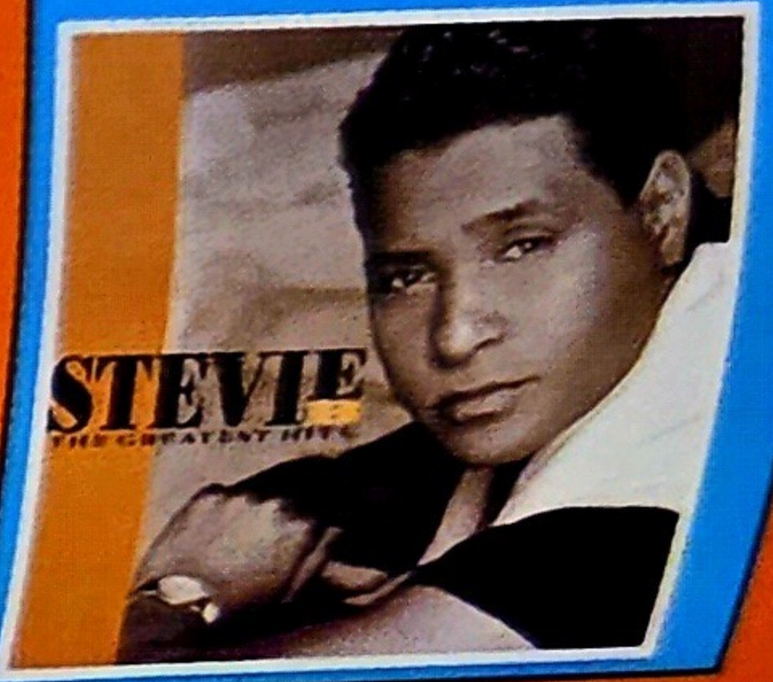
The Greatest Hits



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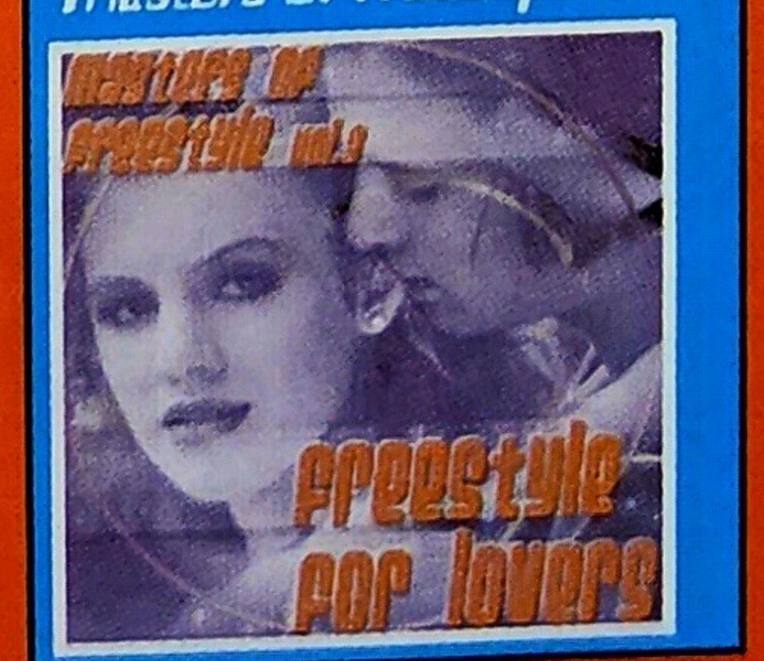
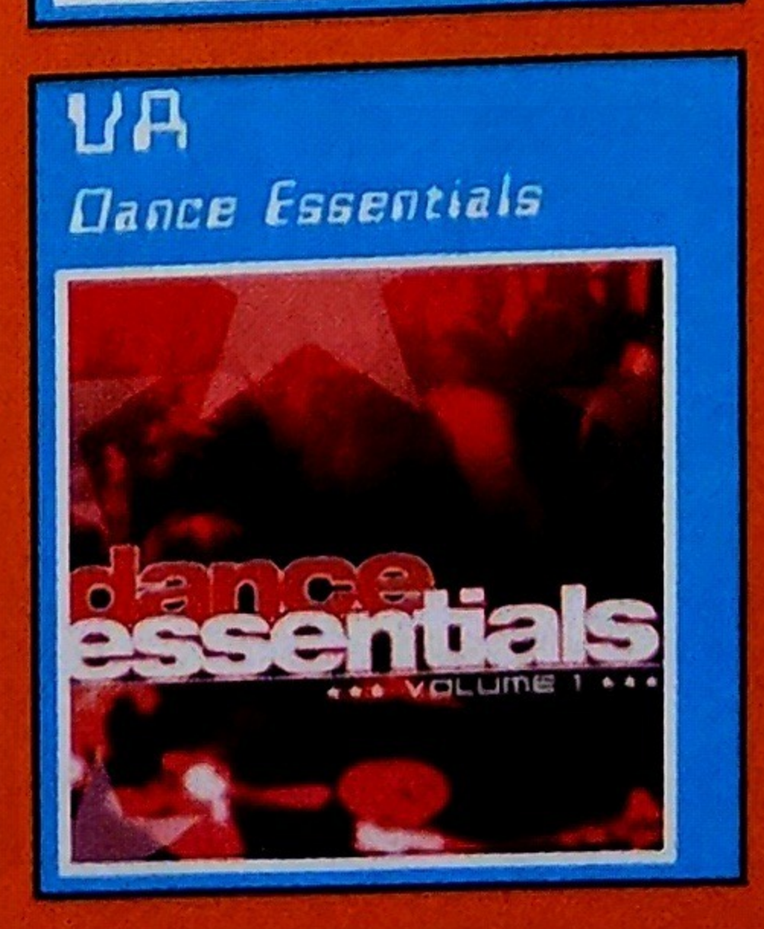
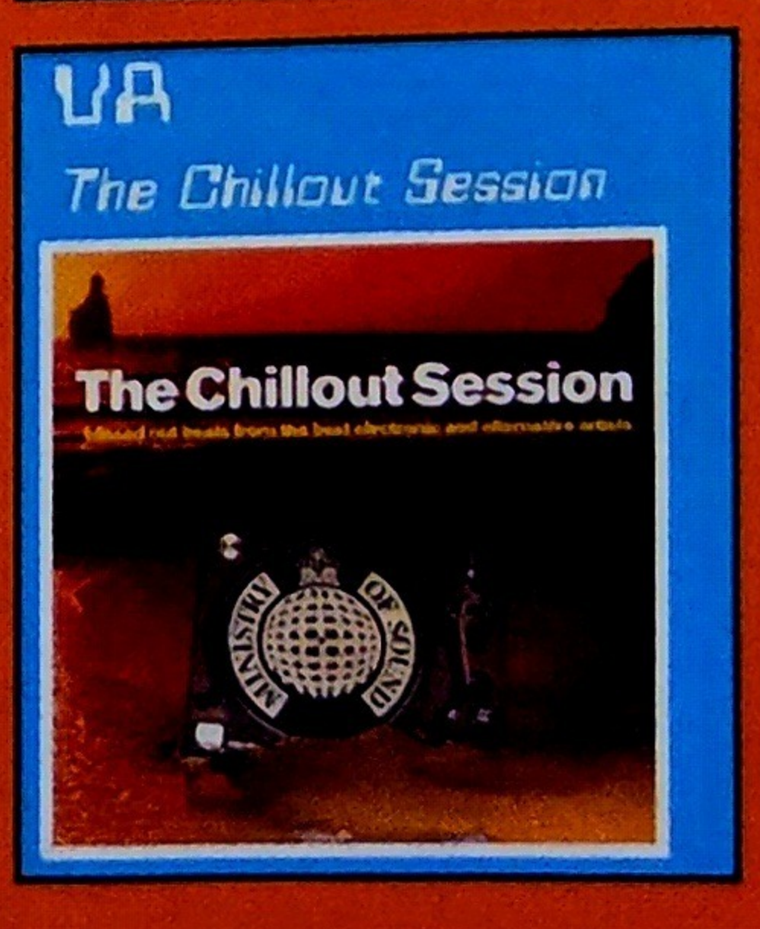
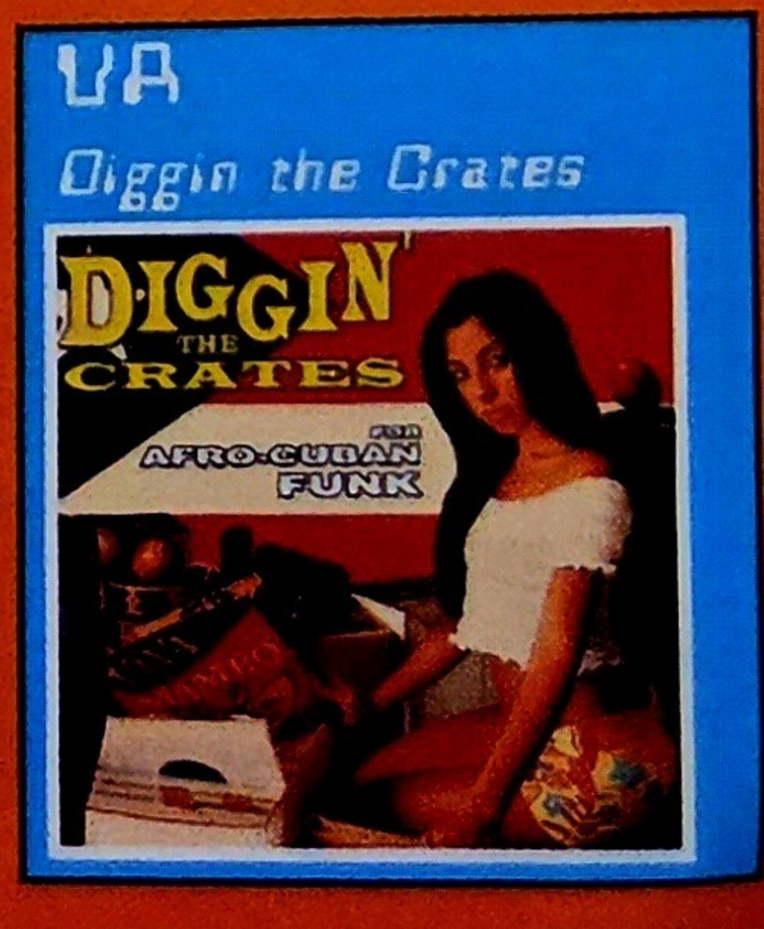








Deepsk

part of the second generation of
LA dance music artists, Deepsky
talk about their album, touring, and
the age of consent in New Mexico.

By Mike Fix

to go when you retire.

So lets jump ahead. Your album that is just about a year old for you since you finished writing it. Artists don't just sit. When are you going to finish your next album?

S: Something you have to understand, in the middle of writing the record we switched from MIDI to soft synths and audio. So we had to go back and revise our old MIDI songs and turn them into audio songs, and the sort of learn a new method of writing in the middle of this album.

I've made that switch myself, there is quite a learning curve.

J: You have to get your brain out of MIDI gear, and one of the last reality that I didn't want to face is that all the gear that I worked so hard to buy meant nothing anymore.

S: And you can't even sell it for much anymore either. I've been trying to sell the 02R for the last year and a half and no one wants to buy it.

Wait ten years, sign it, and then sell it. Deepsky's stuff. Oh wait, you'd have to be dead for it really be worth something.

S: What else Mike.

I don't know, when you get hit by a car on your way to an interview, your brain just doesn't work the way you'd like.

J: You got hit today? It was your fault.

No, it wasn't my fault. The guy wasn't looking and I was in the crosswalk. I knew he was going to hit me, he was turning right and not looking and jumped on the gas, but when I realized what he was doing, it was too late, I couldn't get out of the way. Bastard!

J: You know, I see you at the weirdest times all over LA at bus stops.

You actually don't need a car in LA.

Yes, I have a new album coming out, how do you like it?

S: Yeah, I like the album.

J: I like it a lot. I'm very pleased with it. [illegible] Some of our remixes [illegible] we finished it are [illegible] technically better.

S: [illegible] still like the album. It's been [illegible] We finished it last June.

What took it so long to come out?

J: We had [illegible] with our label that we had to sort out. We got to the point where we were able to get the record out in early October. Then the label said they would have enough time to do everything that wanted to do.

S: Then September 11th happened. It was good that the record was actually delayed.

J: We were stuck in London when that happened mastering the record.

Where did you master at?

J: The Exchange.

Like that place?

S: [illegible] The place itself is quite under whelming.

S: We had all these expectation of what it would be like, with all these vintage compressors, and all this stuff. We walked in there and all they do is overdrive it through a bunch of old analog equalizers.

J: I don't know how any of their gear still works with all the tobacco tar that must be caked on the inside of it, because everybody in there smokes non-stop in every room.

S: But they cut the best vinyl in the world.

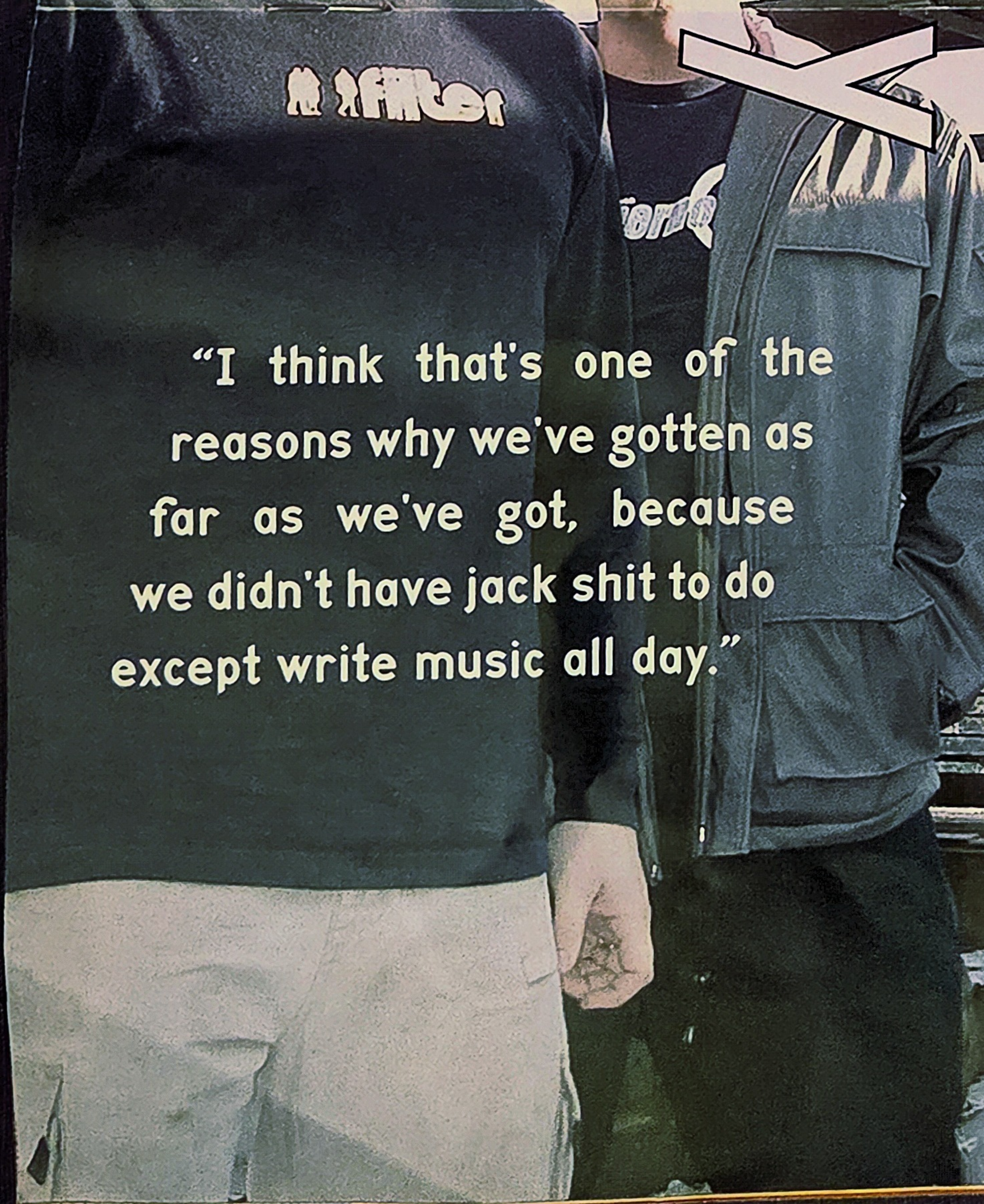
J: Bar none, they cut the best vinyl.

Are you nervous about it coming out?

S: I'm not nervous.

J: I'm interested to see what happens.

S: People are playing the single, and they're enjoying it. So I think things are going to go well.


"I think that's one of the reasons why we've gotten as far as we've got, because we didn't have jack shit to do except write music all day."

to New Mexico?
S: Ummm...
J: (laughter)

No, really...The age of consent in New Mexico is what, 16...
J: ...13...

...13, come on...
S: Shit, you're right, what the fuck are we doing here?

That's 5 years younger than here...
J: New Mexico is a great place, and I really really nice to visit, but going back, playing shows, and visiting people...by the time I leave, it's definitely time to leave...because I've exhausted all possibilities of entertainment.
S: (laughter) totally...
J: I think that's one of the reasons why we've gotten as far as we've got, because we didn't have jack shit to do except write music all day. We weren't distracted by clubs and drugs...maybe a little bit, but...
S: ...Maybe a little more one than the other...

Compared to here, where there is entertainment right when you walk out your door.
J: That's part of why we got where we got as quick as we did, we didn't have those distractions. We only had 5 or 6 working pubs that played this kind of music. We didn't have this broad base of music. But if you asked if I'd ever move back, I'd say no.

How do you like it here?
S: Great restaurants, great working opportunities, I don't want to live here all my life, but it's great for this time.
J: There's beaches, great weather...
S: I'd like to move to Santa Fe when I get older, have a house.
J: Santa Fe would be great.

See, New Mexico, that age of consent, I'm tellin' ya...
J: laugher, Santa Fe would be great place

It's all lies.
S: I take the metro.

I don't understand why they don't just build a monorail.
J: Where would they put it?

A pillar only takes up like 4 square feet, it's all cheap concrete. Disneyland has had the technology for years. It's simple. You know, when they were building the red line between Hollywood and Universal City, they were digging the tunnels and they missed each other by like 12 feet.
J: How did New York get it right in 1905, and LA 1990 can't even dig two tunnels and meet in the middle.

So, what else.
J: We do everything virtual, and we have a record coming out.

How about your shows? Are you expanding on them?
S: Not yet, but as soon as we're able to take more stuff with us, but that'd take getting on a bus.
J: There is only so much stuff you can get on a plane, specially now.

What is it like to tour using the airlines now?
S: They go through everything now.
J: I had to take my shoes off the other day. It takes a lot longer, and now nothing over a certain weight, only a certain number of bags, and only one carry on. Where we used to carry on two bags, our keyboards, and laptops. Now we have to rely on promoters to rent the right gear.

So you're looking forward to when you can get on the bus?
J: We have a whole new show already lined up when we can get on a bus. We have a video guy, a lighting guy, we can take way more gear, it'd definitely be a new show way worth seeing.

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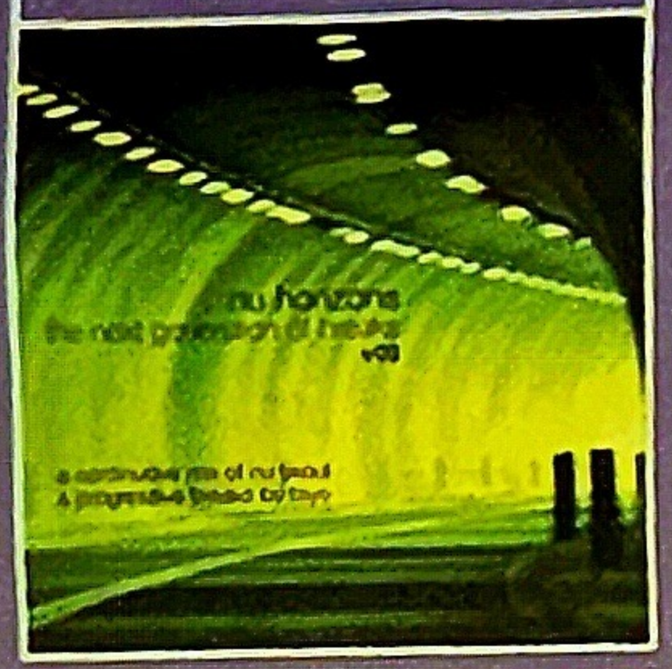

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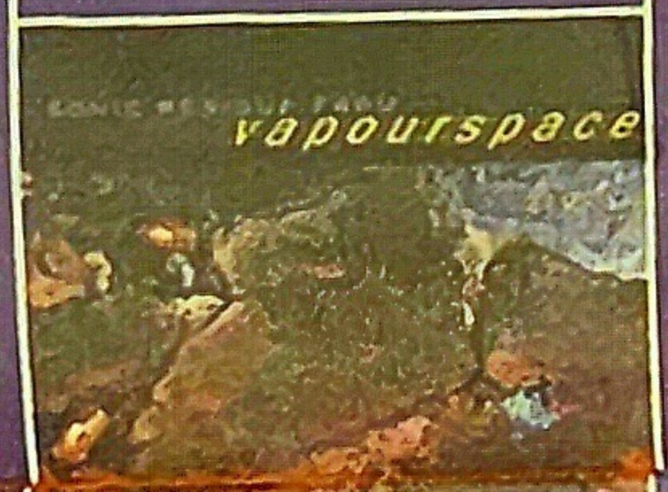

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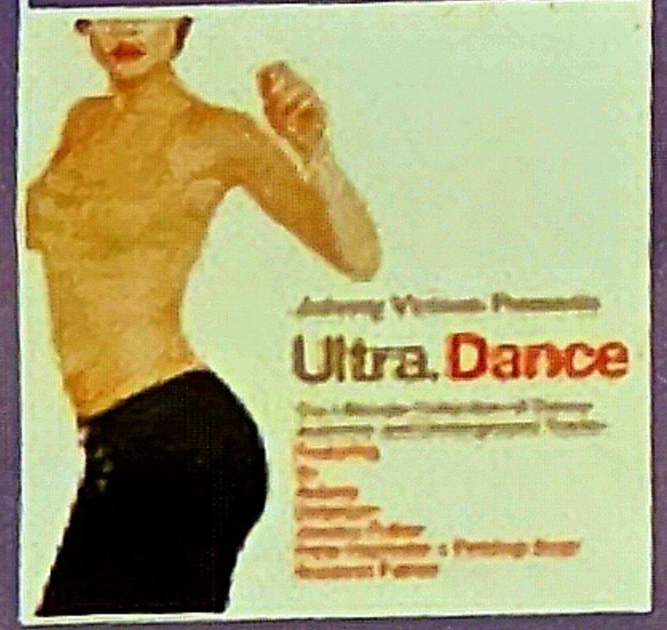

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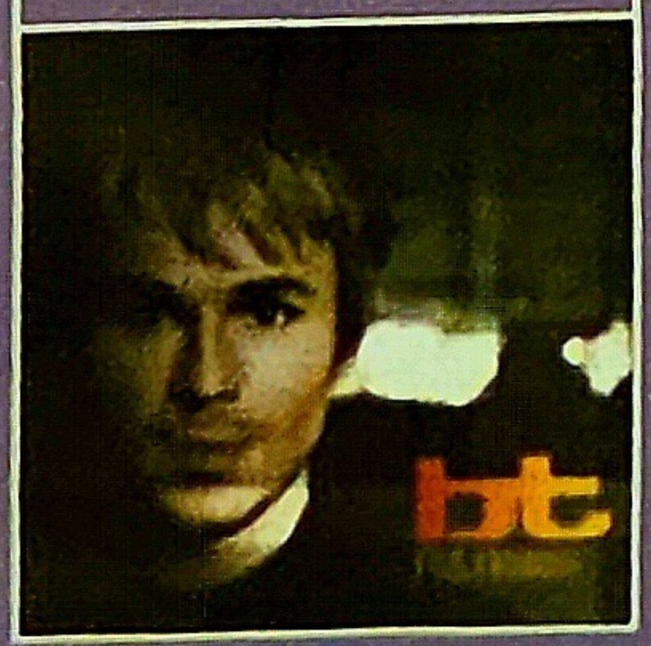
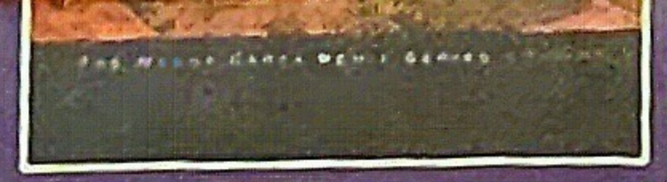
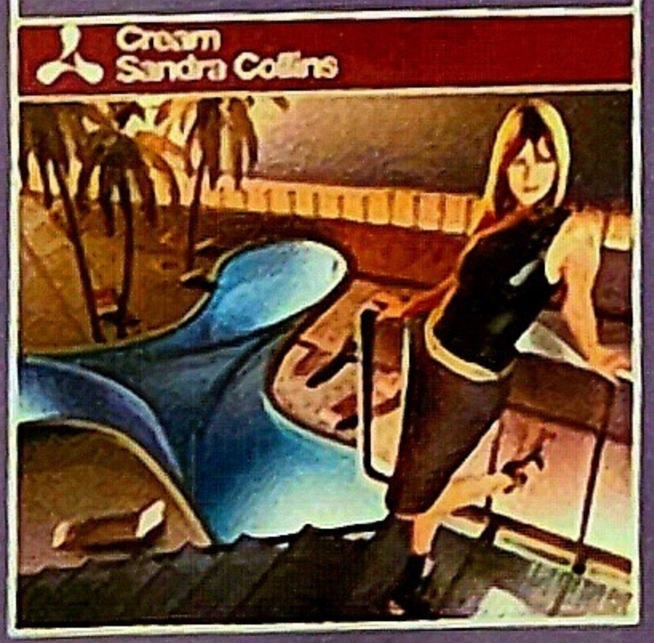




Sandra Collins

Cream



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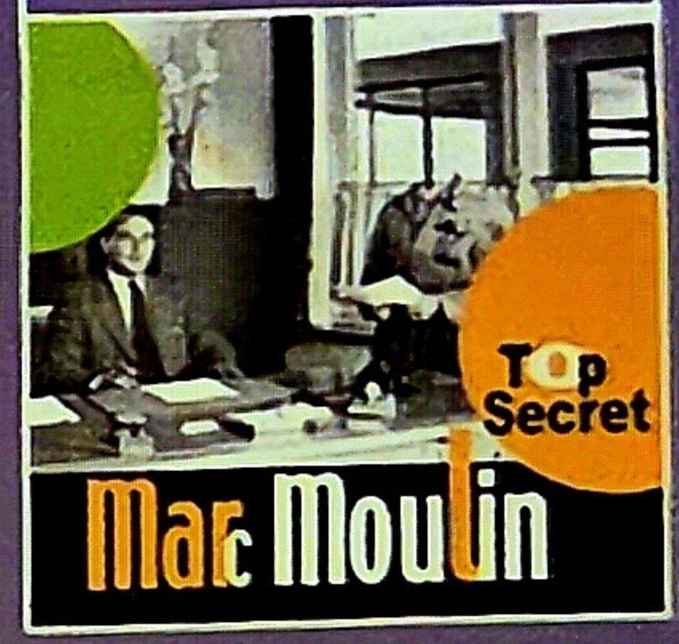
Top Secret



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Billy "Daniel" Bunter

The UKs BIGGEST 12"s

by DJ Ganesh

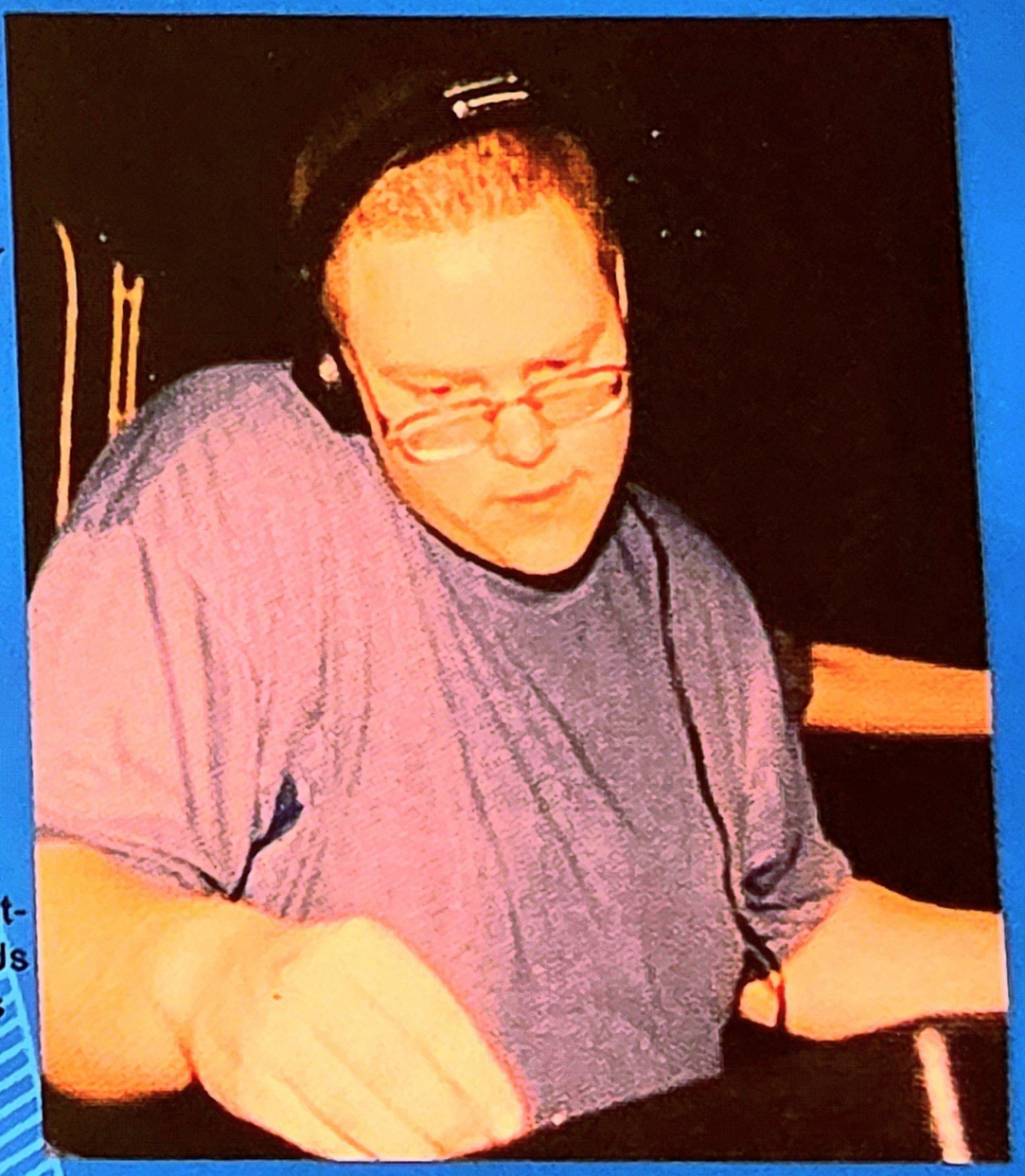
Honey Pot has been one of the most consistently up front labels in the Hard House/NRG scene, is there any guiding vision that dictates the tracks you release?
Just quality as we see it, we release all different styles within the Hard House & Hard Trance genres, we have covered a lot of ground since our first release, we have put out the most cutting edge stuff through to real fun party stuff. We don't follow trends we go with what we like and believe in, a fine example for this has been our support for the hard trance sound over the past 2 years, last year only the most underground djs wanted to know that sound as the majority of djs where opting for the hoovers & horns style, now hard trance has gone full circle again and is being supported by a lot of people.....My philosophy is that a good record is a good record and that's what dictates where we are going.

Your latest project, the Honey Pot Recordings album, "Tasty" Volume One seems a huge undertaking. With 34 tracks in all, how did you finally nail down which tunes and mixes would make it to the final pressing?
I wanted to show every angle the label had taken over the past few years from the 135 to 140 bpm pumping house right through to the 145 - 155 bpm banging NRG, Hard Trance & Hard House. It covers every thing we have stood for, variety and quality, there's massive anthems on there like Roosta's – 414 all & Tasty - Make It rock, cutting edge tracks that at the time we released them, weren't fully understood but have now become the sounds of the current scene like Nick Sentience's - 1000mph and Jon Doe's - Future, There's also great pumpin' club records from acts such as Kumara & Knuckleheadz, as well as a massive dose of unheard and unreleased material, future anthems such as Jon Doe's - Ware House & Lee James - We got enough. As well as a fair few surprises on there as well.

One of your sub labels, UK Hard has been so a joint effort between you and Jon Doe will that remain the focus of the label?
Yep, every release. Me and Jon have got a great vibe together in the studio and we all ways come out with records that seem to do really well. Honey Pot has got a number of artists signed exclusive like, Roosta, A Project, Lee James, D.B.S.K, Jon Doe & myself as well as all the track we sign from people like Justin Bourne & Stimulant DJs. So we just didn't have the space to release all of the stuff me and Jon where doing together. We had also been touring the world a lot together, so UK Hard seemed a great idea, and it worked.

Your other label A Tracks seems to be named after another of your label's productions, A Project. Will there be a defining sound for A Tracks?
I think over the coming 6 months A Project will come in to his own, The fantasy was his very first Hard House track, so the talent there is incredible. As with UK Hard we can't release everything on Honey Pot by just 1 or 2 acts, so we set up A Tracks as an under ground out put for A Project's stuff.

What do you think will be the future of the Hard House sound? Already there seems to be a backlash, of sorts, to the sound and it's rapid rise in the past few years, contributed in no small part to the over use of familiar samples and the ubiquitous hoover. What direction would you like to see the sound move?
I think all the above says it all for me.....GOOD MUSIC, that's all that matters to me, there is a backlash, with DJs and producers opting for other sounds and that's cool, as well as the djs and producers who wanna stick with the straight up party stuff, that's cool as well, for me I've expressed where I think the scene is going in the shape of artists such as Jon Doe and Nick Sentience, as well as keeping my eye on the dance floor favourites such as A project - Fantasy & Lee James - We Got Enough. Good solid music is where it should all ways be heading.



Calling some of Honey Pot's output "Hard Trance" it must be a bit of deja-vu for you, any thoughts on that?
It's well cool for me, it's been nearly 5 years since I thought of the whole Hard Dance thing with my album "The Future of Hard Dance", and the concept was simple, that all forms of harder music could be played under 1 roof and in 1 set, and that whole attitude seems to have come around again, with many promoters opting to call the music at there events hard dance, and record labels using the word Hard Dance to describe there sound. It can only be good for me as it's something I played a massive part in influencing, it's just another name at the end of the day, and the most important thing to me regardless of names and current trends is THE MUSIC.

SIMON SAYS BY SIMON APEX

What's up everyone and welcome back to the first Freebass of 2002! I hope everyone had a great new year. Mine was pretty mad I was booked at Cool World's Planet New Year event in San Francisco. I requested a bit of an early time slot, as I really did not want to take any bookings this new years as I have been traveling every year for the past 4 years! I just wanted to hang out at home and get battered with my friends, but when does anything ever go to plan! I arrived at the venue at about 7:30 nicely on time for my 8pm set. We found the room had a bit of peek and headed to the bar to get some New Year spirit on! I returned to the room at about 7:50 and got sorted on the stage. The room was not very full maybe 300 people which to be honest I expected as my time slot was so early. I kicked off my set with Now Control on Stompin and it was almost like I had slapped the crowd across the face with a giant trout! Everyone turned and looked at the decks and when the kick drum dropped they went mental! I was like wow....lets f#@kin ave it!!!! I kept my head down and concentrated on my set for about the next 30 mins and then I dropped Scott Browns Power Of Love Remix looked up over the decks and there must have been close to a 1000 people in the room going nutz!! Hands in the air horns, whistles the full monty!! Definitely the best atmosphere I have seen in San Francisco for a while. The UK had a mad one too with Slammin doing there usual show at the Sanctuary but out of nowhere comes Vibealite billing at the mighty Fantasy Island Theme Park!! I spoke to da Robbie Long and he said that Fantasy Island was off the riktor scale!! 7 arenas's and about every top Dj in the UK billed. Hixxy said Slammin also went the extra mile with the Hardcore arena being hosted in the Fast Trax warehouse. The entire arena was covered with huge UV backdrops, massive visual screens and a top class servo driven sound system.

There has been loads of stuff going down on the production side of things in the past month. I think the biggest news has to be that Infectious distribution in the UK has just announced that they will be carrying Hardcore as of Feb 1st 2002! Kevin Energy who runs Nu Energy is the guy that pretty much single handily organized the whole Infectious distribution deal. This is unbelievable news for the scene as now all of the producers have options for their releases between two distribution company's Alpha Magic and Infectious. This should insight some healthy competition and hopefully expand the Hardcore sound to new frontiers. There are lots of record releases on the way we at SSU have set our release schedule for 2002 and we have 2 release's set for February 1st, 2 for March 1st and then 2 for April 1st. We are going to try to keep this consistency through out the year. We also have our new label No Control scheduled for May. No Control will be the debut of the direction of Hardcore that we are going to be following. It is a heavy fusion of Hardcore and Freeform but keeping a strong hold on the high-energy ravey edge that has been so prominent in our previous releases. The Nu Energy Collective also has some serious stormers on the way and they have put together a very consistent release schedule for 2002. Hixxy has also got a solid release schedule for the year including the launch of a spin off label from Raver Baby called Jelly Baby. I really think that 2002 is going to be the year for Hardcore. The quality of the music is at the very best it has been in a long time and there are new producers, Promoters and Dj's appearing everyday. I feel that this is the year that we will finally shake off that whole 1997 chessecore image that has plagued the progression of the Hardcore sound for so long. Its out with the old and in with the new! Lets all pull together push the sound in the direction it needs to go. The next time someone asks if you are into Happy Hardcore give them a quick correction and inform them it is all just Hardcore!

Till the next time....

Simon Apex
simonapex@freebass.tv

Demigod's Rants

Welcome back to your one stop for all things Hardcore. Since Freebass skipped the December issue, almost two months have passed since you last read my words. As much as I would like to begin this months column with December, the smoke-induced holes in my memory unfortunately won't let me do that. So we'll start with the last night of 2001 and work our way from there.

Here in L.A., the New Years celebration consisted of the annual "Together As One" event at the Sports Arena. As for the talent in the Hardcore area, they brought in Double D from Canada and Tron from Chi-Town, both of whom made their first appearance in L.A. in quite some time. From what I hear, both of them rocked the joint and represented strong. One dj who was unexpedadly absent from the event for reasons unknown was Omar Santana, even though he was listed on the flier. Personally I made the decision to go abroad this New Years and represent the power of West Coast Hardcore to the Europeans in Switzerland.

The event I went out for was "Rave Olympia" put on by Goliath Events, considered by many to be one of the very best rave organizations in the world. They spread out 8 separate arenas throughout the Basel megaplex with Hardcore representing strong with 2 of them. And when I say Hardcore, I mean real Hardcore!! Besides myself, the first area had dj's such as Lenny Dee, Manu Le Malin, Jappo, Homer and a live performance by Lethal Insanity. The second Hardcore arena had live performances by Rotterdam Terror Corpse, and Dark Twins with dj's Gizmo, Distortion, Dione, and a slew of others. Without a doubt, this was one of the most powerful and exhilarating displays of Hardcore that I have experienced in a long time. In addition to the normal craziness you expect to see at a massive, things happened the likes I've never seen before. Like Lenny and Manu just going off with the crowd about our good ol' friend Charly Yayo. And who can forget Jappo, definitely one of the most durable party maniacs that I have ever seen come out of the boot. Practically everyone I talked on my trip predicted 2002 to be a great year for the core. Things are looking up my fellow Hardcore faithful, so stay true to the sound and don't sell out to all that trife going around nowadays.

The reason I feel it's important to mention Hardcore events in various parts of the world, is because I want everyone to know how far reaching and influential our music is. It truly is a global phenomenon and we need to remember that when things in our own Hardcore scene get tough sometimes, so boua! One more Hardcore sector I wanted to mention is Central California. Last month I was in Sacramento and I was totally blown away by the reaction Hardcore received. And the Hardcore I'm talking about is not of the fluffy variety, I'm talking about the hard pounding stuff. The crowd got more and more into it with every passing bpm, that by the time I was half way through the set, everyone was completely bonkers and freakin' the speakers like it was L.A. 1995. Big up's to all the supporters of the sound up there, you guys and girls really know how to rave Hardcore.

In signing off this month, I want to mention a few California releases that are sure to stir some waves. The first is the susseful launch of Encore and Romantek Records. The second is the impending release of Daisy Cutter. More info on this very special release next month. So here's hoping our local Hardcore labels keep on spreading the power of the Hardcore to everyone they can. Let's continue our strong beginning here in 2002 and show the world what Hardcore is really all about. Till next time boys and girls.

DJ Demigod
demigod@freebass.tv

Hardcore 12" Reviews

Sram
Noiz Pollution EP
B2K B2K002
HARDCORE A 4-tracker French release with considerable emphasis placed on the low end of the frequency scale. Ballsy experimental Hardcore with one track hitting the 230 BPM mark.

Maniaks
Alone with Indian Song
BEAST [FRA] BEAST016
HARDCORE The Maniaks deliver a slower paced gem with a definite Asian influence. Spooky and creepy is what comes to mind when the needle is dropped. A nice tool to have in any crate for just that right situation. A very nice dedication to the memory of Liza N Eliaz is included.

Hoikam Syckness
Disto Punk Voodoo
BEAST [FRA] BEAST018
HARDCORE Hard hitting ball busting is what this mad Frenchman is all about on this release. Various tempos that compliment each other well do this record justice. The bass kick is strong and the atmospheres are trip inducing. Don't miss out.

Gabbaextended
Five Sekonds EP
D-BOY [ITA] SORLDB113
HARDCORE Watch out, cause for the new year D-Boy pumpin' out some superb stuff for your membrane alpha-structure. Nice and hard all the way through, four tracks to mix up with 1 and quarter cup of milk and two scoops of wall shavings.

The Wishmaster
Slave to the Empire
D-BOY [ITA] SORLDB114
HARDCORE Bringin' the hardest new school tech for your brain aneurisms with the hard blood and guts. Unloading round after round, this three track EP kills your audio sensory modules with the hardest new style around, Italian style.

Various A
Mixed Mode
EBE [GER] EBE10
HARDCORE A 3-tracker that walks the tightrope between the Dutch and French sound. The Catscan remix is a definite pounder while the flip side is more of a slower paced more experimental groove. A smart collaboration equals a good release, muff said.

La Peste
Unknown
HANGERS LIQUIDES [FRA] HL021
HARDCORE Igor dishes out a 7-tracker straight from Hell, or is that France? In either case this release is a keeper and not for the faint of heart. Constructed in a similar fashion to the Deathchant label, the breakdowns will have dj's flexing their skills.

Igor
Sztorm
HANGERS LIQUIDES [FRA] HL022
HARDCORE Tripped out hardcore bleeps and blurbs is what you get here. Very interesting production from the French countryside. Great release to use in a "change of pace" situation.

Nukom
Raw Hardcore Vol.1
HK VIOLENCE [UK] HKV001
HARDCORE This first release straight outa NYC (but pressed U.K) is a search and destroy mission without a doubt. Or shall I say search and buy. Unrelenting brutal Hardcore is the name of the game here as Carl C. takes a definite cue from neighbor Industrial Strength. A must for any serious speed core head that loves spitting sic profanity. Thanks to Know-It-all for rocking the reviews, words quoted!!!

MASTERS OF HARDCORE
The Beating Heart Of The Underground
MASTERS OF HARDCORE [HOL]
MOHCD2009 CD
HARDCORE Pull up your covers, this compilation is waking you up with the hard shit on all new tracks. Not for the kiddies, please read the warning labels.

J.D.A. VS Bass D & King Mathew
ThesurvivorsofHardcore
MASTERS OF HARDCORE [HOL]
MOHSP007
HARDCORE Busting out with the sick opera style madness, this one excellent track to follow up to anyone's standards. Check out the break to lead to some dark empty hallways and screeching voices to keep you warm at night, don't wet the bed you wuss.

The Headbanger
Are U Afraid Of The Dark?
MEGARAVE [HOL] MR029CD CDISC
HARDCORE What the fuck?!!! If you know what's up with The Headbanger then you know what's up the sickest fucking hardcore around. Known from many labels such as Megarave, Rotterdam, and many other famous 'hardcore labels. Now to freak you out, this album contains all tracks that The Headbanger has ever laid down old to new on a nicely packed 3 disc album, shit, you know the rest, Don't Sleep!!

Various
Hardcore 2002
MEGARAVE [HOL] MR030CD CDISC
HARDCORE Giving you a little taste of what's coming in for the new year, Megarave always shows some generosity. So, check the forthcoming hits for the next year, with NEW material from DNA, Megarave, and Offensive. Be ahead of the game!!

DJ Partyraiser & T.I.M
The Order
OVERLOAD [HOL] OR001
HARDCORE This inaugural release is 100% Dutch Hardcore, much along the lines of MOH. Filled with various recognizable samples, such as one from a recent Dj Demigod release, this e.p. is sure to fit nicely within the "sound of the moment."

The Stunned Guys pres.
The Best of Italian Hardcore
ROTTERDAM [HOL] ROTC26 CD
HARDCORE All rolled into one, the sickest tracks to ever seep out of this toxic analog leak in the crust of Dutch Hardcore! Don't miss this treasure of the dark with old and new tracks in the mix, sickest double disc to ever come out Traxtorm territories.

Terror Trax
The Remixes Vol. 1
TERROR TRAX [HOL] TT50
HARDCORE To celebrate the 50th release, Terror Trax compiled the dopest old tracks and remixed them into oblivion. All these sick ass tracks remixed by the likes of The Viper, Bodylotion, DJ Nosferatu, and Evil Activities and on a beautiful picture disc

G-Town Vs. The Viper
Here It Comes
BABY BOOM RECORDS [HOL]
BABY044
HARDCORE This Duo has been in the charts from the very beginning. The Viper with his massive hits like "Original Hardcore Gangster" and many more, team up with one of the best producers of his time to bring this ruffed out new style track to the masses. You know its going to be hard, and done very well. Get It Quick!!

DJ Paul & MC Rage
Hardcore Till We Die
D-BOY RECORDS [ITA] SORLDB115
HARDCORE The Bad Boy from Italy, teams up with Holland's all time number 1 to bring you a smashing 2 tracker with quick punchy stabs, hard ass kick drums and that all to familiar voice of MC Rage jumpin' and pumpin' all through this monster release!!!!

Dunderhead
Scream
HEADFUCK RECORDS [ITA] HDF012
HARDCORE Now here is some intense ass hardcore! The headfuck label has always been know for being ruff and rugged with their releases. Dunderhead smashes into some serious riffs, and awesome samples, sure to keep everyone moving from first drum, to last!!!

Kit Williams
Darkness Is Back
INDUSTRIAL STRENGTH [ITA] ISE005
HARDCORE The new Industrial Strength label comes back with an awesome newcomer track. Kit Williams rocks his sh*t out with this awesome 3 track EP. Definitely his first of many to hit the hardcore circuit. "Darkness Is Back"? I don't think it ever left!!!

DJ Dione
2 Damn Hard
MEGARAVE RECORDS [HOL]
MRV049
HARDCORE Megarave just keeps putting hit after hit out!! This one is surely going to stun the masses when it hit the shelves here. Already getting huge playtime from Dr Zvago, Neophyte and many others on dub, you know the US is going to whole heartedly accept

www.chipmonkgrafx.com

Jungle
Drum & Bass
12" Reviews

Ixis
Joules / Media
GASM [USA] GASM001
Takin' you through a dark tunnel and there is no light at the end of this record, super dark and chunky with some of the sickest bass lines to come out of the states in a long while. Two tracks to stay mentally manipulated with, so don't stay cold this winter, feel the hot toxins dripping down your neck. If you like Ixis, peep them on Freeform Recordings too. (last week)

Dylan & Loxy
Up Blank
NEMCRON [USA] NEM001
Crossing over seas to add their unique skills to the land of North Carolina is the Dynamic duo of D & L plus native talents DJ Isis, DJ Luna & J.OB. The new forefront of DnB music gets a face lift and from the DJ Promo responses this label is going to be one to wrecking with. With number two already in the works with "DJ Ink" the Nemcron camp puts it down in the 2002 and causes knock out blows. Final editions out early Jan! Get your white now!!!

Anon
Clubbing
BOOTY CUTZ [UK] BTC004
Here we have them again the series eveyone wants ..Booty Cutz. This time we have reworx of Ice T & DMX "We Be Clubbin" with Usher on the flip. Be prepared!!

Optimus Prime
Terminated
INFLICTED [UK] INFLICT07
New release from the man of many guises Twisted Individual. Comin atcha this time as Optimus Prime with Phat B lines& wicked riffs. Receiving rave reviews from DJ SS, Grooverider plus airplay on Radio One!! Act Fast!!

G-Squad
Hustler's Anthem
SPEKTRUM AUDIO [UK] SPK014
Two more heavyweight rollers from the supply and demand crew. Its taken along time for the S.Audio camp to stay in
the top notches and with this one getting plays by Bailey & Frost theirs no telling what can happen!!

TMS1
My Time IS Now / Funky Show
BATTLEMASTER TMS001
This is the debut release from both the artist and the label. This is a stormer. Getting smashed all over on dub
plate with jungle that can not be phased. TMS1 has remixed Buddha Monk (Wu Tang), Beastie Boys, Freestyles, 187, and Technology. With a resume that goes on and on this artist is showing his skills in nothing but straight jungle biz nitch. This is a gem so grab it while we still have it.

Roots
Carve / Epidemic (Feat. Fierce)
SQUARE ONE BCRUKS0001
DRUM & BASS This the debut of Bad Company's new label. Roots has been on No U Turn and Moving Shadow and
encompasses a lot of the Bad Company elements in his production style. This 12" has been making its rounds to each club and party on dub plate and creating a faithful audience. Both tracks are rocking across the UK and the B side features a collaboration with Fierce that is excellent. Great expectations should be predicted to this label. Watch out for it!!!

Sketch & Code
Blinded / Falling
INTERCOM ICOM019
DRUM & BASS This has been hailed in Knowledge as a "Killer vocal anthem." The rolling beats and haunting vocals take this style to the outer limits. With the new rise in vocal d+b this one is one that will sustain the fad. A 12" that will become a classic.

Shadowman
Wardance / Knowledge Is Power
INVADER INVD010
This is one dark release from a well known producer that is keeping on the undercover tip. Taking the UK by storm this both sides of this release have been causing mayhem all over the UK. The dub has been making kids go crazy by the likes of Bad Company, Loxy, and Doc Scott.

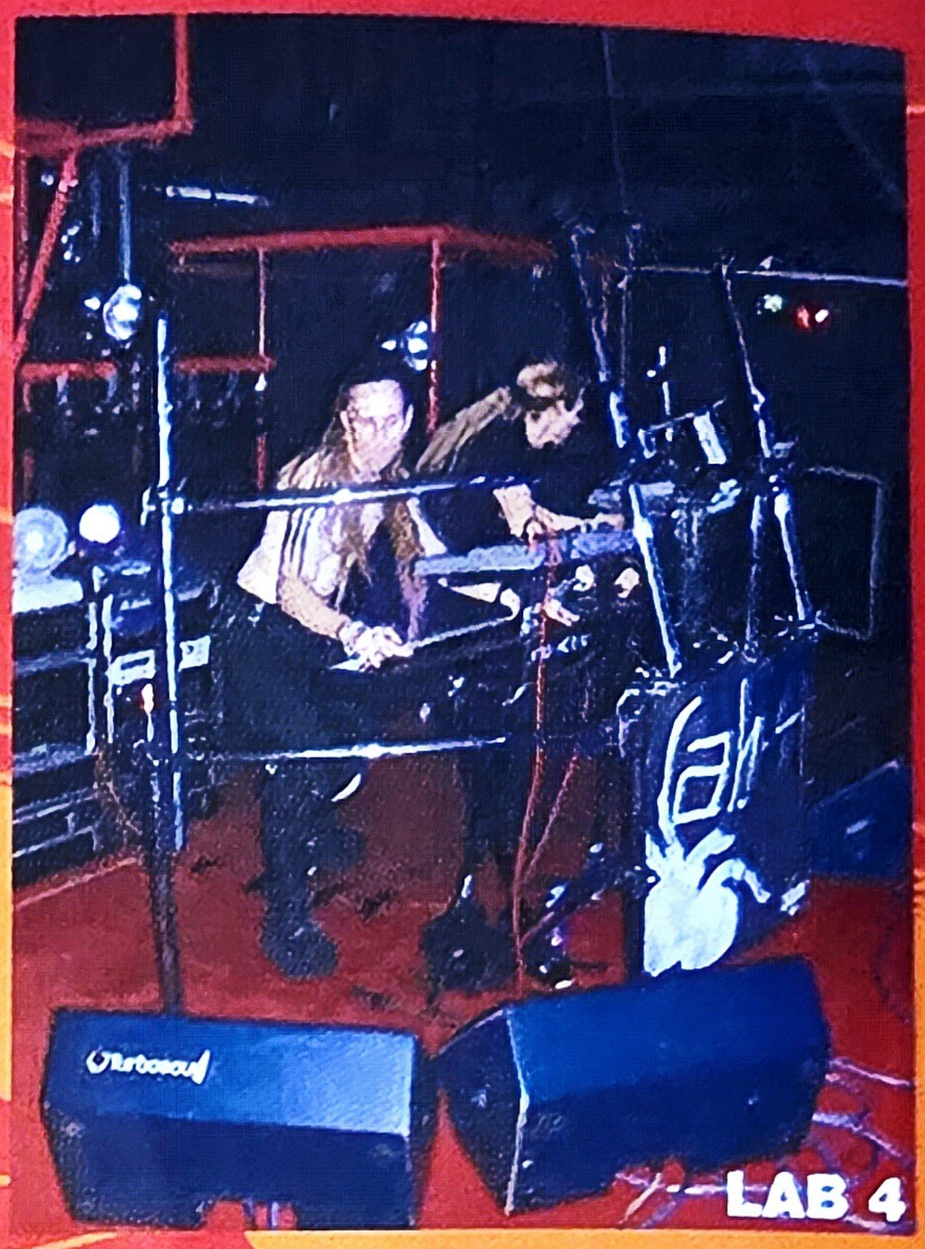
Loxy & Ink / Ink
Soundwave / Drop Heavy
OUTBREAK OUBLTD2
This is the second release from the Outbreak sub label. The old Renegade Hardware duo Loxy And Ink team up again to throw down two off the hook tracks to get the place rockin'. This is one track you know you could not be with out!!! Plays from Bad Company, Swift and Total Science.

Brockle Solo
Mars / Echo Box
TRUE PLAYAZ TPR12037
DJ Brockle makes his debut on True Playaz with fierceness. "Mars" is a very interesting track that takes on techno, and acid elements to create a very eclectic and intriguing sound. The bass line fades in and out as each sound is tweaked out. The song has changes to keep you interested up to the last note. "Echo Box" is a huge track that is making its way through all of the clubs and parties. Taking horns and tweaking the hell out of the sound taking on the old skool break style. This is one 12" that is in high demand.

WWW.FREEBASS.TV
all new for 2002

CHARGED!
BY DJ GANESH

Back once again...after our brief Winter hiatus. After what seems to have been an eternity in the waiting ended up being, once again, a deadline that came all to quickly! Despite such a long break, surprisingly little has been going on. The holiday season takes it toll on the dance industry with a vengeance. One thing that has changed since last issue is the review section. The main thing is I'm no longer doing it. The reason behind this is to get a larger amount of tune from a broader cross-section of styles. The reviews will be written by the distributors side and therefore you'll get a bit more of the bouncy Hard House along with the more up-front harder sounds of NRG and Hard Dance. It will be a better situation, I think, for you the reader. Let them know what you think. Send in feedback. You should consider this your magazine and you should help shape it!

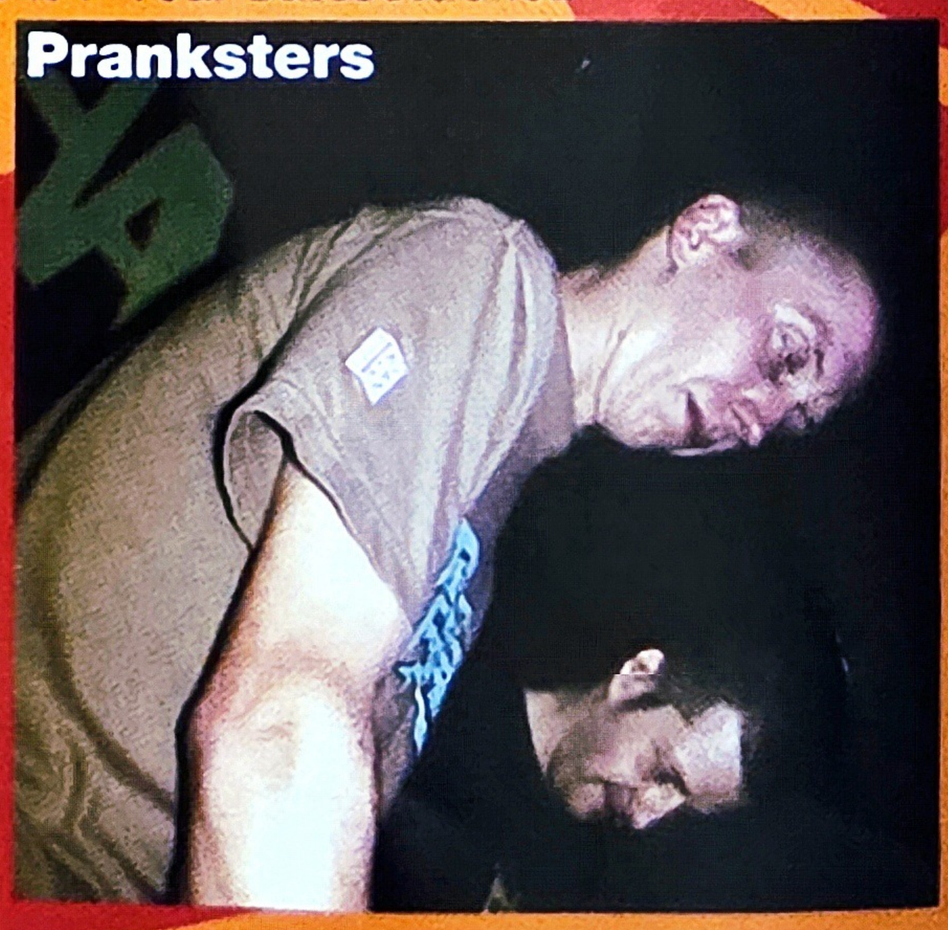

LAB 4

Am I the only one that finds it a lot more difficult to get a good tune down at the shop or even on-line, these days? The latter of those two seems to be the new avenue of choice for buying vinyl, for a lot of you and it seems to be a bit of a mixed bag as far as benefits and limitations. First of all the benefits are clear, no standing in line waiting for tables, no wasted travel time driving down to the shop only to find fuck all in the way of tunes, also no dealing with the ubiquitous ass of a record store clerk that can't stand anything but "Head-chill-tech-three-step-acid-jungle" from '92. So, of course, your interest in Hard House does nothing but make him or her look sideways at you in the hopes that you won't pull too many records that he will have to put back. So clearly, online shopping is a modern convince that many of us have had the pleasure(?) of experiencing. There is a flip side to that coin, however...

Captain Tinrib

With the advent of on-line record shops, the entire worldwide dj community is able to hear everything by everybody at the same time. Then you have the relatively new "hot sheet" records. The hottest selling tunes all put in handy order for the average joe to pick up. While very nice for the up-and-coming djs to get quick bagful of hit records, it doesn't exactly lead to an imaginative sound. Despite the fact, that I hear a lot of complaining from fellow djs about this, along with the glut of unoriginal tracks (which is the case in every established genre, I might add) I think this is a relatively good thing. As I've said before hunting the bins has always been the best way to develop an original sound, and with so many records coming out (let's just forget about the laws two months, ok?) you really have to spend some quality time listening to everything, and I do mean *everything* to find the true gems. The Internet has gone full circle.

On the new releases front; everybody's favorite acid NRG nutters, **Pranksterz** have a few new tunes on the way, first on, **Morgan** and **Khemical Kidd's** label, **Lotek** with "A Typical Number" and take it from me, "typical" means typical from Pranksterz, so be on the look out, then on their self titled imprint "This is it...is it"/"Your BassSectioned" No preview of this yet, but it's bound to kick! As if that weren't enough, a new album "Fundamentalizm"! **Chris C's Mohawk** is currently negotiating with trance guru **DuMonde** to remix to remix #26, "Ruby Red" **Fragile** Records newest "Resurrection" by **Lab-4** also features a re-release of the blinding classic "Contact London". **Tinrib's** future looks bright, as well, seeing **The Captain & Steve Thomas** - "New York, London, Amsterdam" / "The Clown", Captain Tinrib & **Karim** - "I've Got Ya" / "Rock the Disco" and a new **Weirdo** album - Vinyl & CD - as yet untitled. See you next issue...


Pranksters

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UK HARDHOUSE
Nu-NRG
12" Reviews

Base 1
My Way
DP RECORDINGS [UK]
DPR27
(HARD) HOUSE Base 1 are Rico Bass and Sacha Van Holt. . . Two up and coming DJ's/producers whose hard house style has a slight splash of techno to spice it ups a bit. This is already a top 10 in Germany and has hard ass remix provided by Tindy!!! A must to

Paul Maddox
Control
UK POWER [UK] UKP1204
(HARD) HOUSE The original of this track is a trancy hard houser that bangs the dancefloor. On the flip is a Paul Glazby chunky, beat heavy remix that is off the hook!!! Making its way through every hard house club and causing the place to go mad!!!

DJ's Incorporated
No One Man
AUDIO REHAB [UK]
REHAB010
(HARD)HOUSE Quality hard house custom built to rock any dancefloor.Very similair to the style productions of Matt Clarke, BK (Nukleuz), and the ever dominaing Nick Rafferty. Can you handle the intense Nrg..

Phil Cogan & Pete Wallis
Voodoo/Crazy Fresh D
AZTEC [UK] AZT019
(HARD)HOUSE Get ready to be injected with some stunning acid tinged chunks on the A -side while the flip side get editional bumps from Charlotte Birch & Chris C. Receiving great reviews from Wax & DJ mags..

Cheeky Boys
Volume 8
CHEEKY TRAX [UK]
CTRAX008
(HARD) HOUSE This track is already blowing up all over the UK. This is going to be their biggest remix to date. The Cheek Boys are in full effect and tear this gem apart!!!

Anonymous
Do Your Want It
PANTS & CORSET [UK]
PNC003
(HARD) HOUSE Pants and Corset return with their third release. And what a stormer. This remake is one of their finest. This one topping both of the top selling last two release. This one is a gem so ACT FAST!!!

Smokin Bert Cooper
Gno Place Like Gnome
SMOKIN PROD. [UK]
SMOKE012
(HARD)HOUSE The label boss is back at it again to cain yet another stellar hard house release. With "Chamber 2" still receiving rave reviews, will this new waxie change the pace? Check It.

Titchy Bitch
Dynamo
SUNDISSENTIAL [UK]
SUNNY105
(HARD)HOUSE The mad men crew are back to drop number 5 on this newly supported label but this time productions done by that screaming Titchy Bitch. With continued support from Dave Pearce on Radio 1 this release is set to bring in a wider ranging audience to the hard house sound.

Chris C & Dave Nation
Controlled Descent
MOHAWK AMOK024
(HARD) HOUSE The start of a new year came with a new direction for this happening' label. Chris C teams up with Slinky artist Dave Nation to bring a full on hard trance stormer. This is a new turn for the label and it's like a breath of fresh air. This is a gem so you better ACT FAST!!!

Coley & Cobi
Sundance
BARBWIRE BABRWIRE2
(HARD) HOUSE This strictly limited pressing is one huge track already. Taking the dance floors over and causing crowds to go insane!

Cheeky Boys
Volume 8
CHEEKY TRAX CTRAX008
(HARD) HOUSE This track is blowing up allover the UK and now it is going to be available State-side. The test press made its way into the right hands over the holidays and made it one of the most prolific releases to date. So this one won't last on the shelves so ACT FAST!!!

Clark Bent & Cliterous Lane
Pants Of Steel
STORM TRAX DEFSTAR13
(HARD) HOUSE More hard house lunacy from the kids at Storm Trax. A well known film gets a remix and the flip is a darker old skool remix. This is a gem so you better ACT FAST!!!

Freejay D'Style vs. Vinyl Junkie & D'Cruze
Soul Sa / Process
NILE NILE011
(HARD) HOUSE Label boss, Madam Zu is backing up this track to the fullest. Making headway on test press through the scene this track is one to grab!!! The label is in high demand and now with track out on the loose this one is firing on all cylinders!!! Getting mad support from Matte Clarke, Chris C and Justin Bourne.

Organ Donors
Mad As Hell
PIRATE TRAX PWX002
(HARD) HOUSE This the sophomore release on this banging label. The infamous Organ Donors take on this label with a vengeance. The Organ Donors left the past year as one of the hottest producers in the hard house scene and now they are going to take on the new year to conquer the world. The flip offers a remix by Chris C that is just WICKED!!!

In Trance
with Barbarella

Progressive State Crunchy tribal beats seem to be the taste of the moment. Deeper, darker, and sexier is how I'm liking it anyway. Housey elements are invading the progressive landscape and the results are really interesting. Labels like Forged from the UK are releasing their signature breaks sound but on the flip, we have a housey affair like Bladely's 'Light Fingered'. It is subtle and sneaky. Mezz, one of Bill Hamel's pseudonyms, has released 'No Way Out' and 'The Desert' on his Sunkissed imprint, both of them deep, and dark. 'No Way Out' has a sense of familiarity to it that makes you bob your head the first time you hear it. 'The Desert' is a gnarly, sinister number that will definitely raise some brows. Fade Recordings is also keeping the tribal sounds strong with their recent release called 'The Love'. This latest release incorporates a hollow drum kit and a sexy echoing effect on many of the elements. Filtered chanty vocals slip in and out of the background while sliding metallic sounds play in the foreground. This is definitely a thoughtful and intelligent piece. The latest from Gravitation Records out of the UK is a subdued and sexy piece by Alexander Church called 'Welcome to My World'. It has an eerie melancholy to it, accented by a simple, filtered vocal clip. Remixes include a cut by Mark Wheawill, which gives it a tougher, more progressive edge. Chonga has a new release out on Plastic Fantastic called 'If The Longer Silliest EP'. The A-side ñ 'Thunder in the Literal' is a dark, drummy, trippy number with a freaky little vocal sample. Chonga, AKA Phil Jason is up to some great stuff lately. From his work on Mechanism and Saw to his upcoming releases on Yoshitoshi and Mechanism, this kid is putting out quality progressive tracks. The B-side ñ 'Wishes Gone Empty', is a sinister progressive stomper with a devastating bassline. It's tough for me to decide which to play. Maybe I'll snag two so I can use them both. 3 Beat Records has a new release by Reflektive featuring Andrea Britton called 'Breathe Life'. The 'Monza'a Parabolic Dub' is my favorite and it went over really well at my NYE show in Michigan. The drum hit is tight and hollow, save for a few organic tribal elements. This remix has the least amount of vocal and the snippets that are used add to the tension and fullness of the track. Plastica Red has a new release by Acquired Sound called 'Online/Offline' which is a great tribal number. The drum hit is hollow and dry and filtered vocal clips float over the top. The bassline has a slightly funky edge to it. This one is definitely an ass-shaker. Mid-track, atmospheric overtones are introduced giving it a more progressive feel. This would be a great track to shift your focus a little and add more speed and energy to your set. Oko Tek's 'Tazer' is finally out on Music Now Recordings and goddamn, do not miss this one. Taylor put it out on his recent mixed double CD 'Synaesthasia', and it rocks. iTazer' is definitely one of my top ten right now and Oko Tek is definitely a producer to look out for. Progress Inn, Tune Inn's offshoot label has a new one out by Medway v. Pete Gatwry called 'Optical Illusion'. A little bit more on the housey tip, it is well composed and very intelligent. The bassline is a head-nodder and the bleepy, weird drum kit counterparts will definitely have the floor moving. Wispy atmospheric overtones give it a slightly mellow feel. It's perfect for morning sets, after-parties, or a sunrise on the beach. Filter Tip has a new release on Automatic Records called 'On Heat'. Both remixes are dope but I prefer the Graham Camp interpretation. This is a really dirty progressive tech house number with loads of attitude. Eerie strings are filtered over a gnarly drum kit and a filthy bassline. Swirling atmospheres sear over the top as weird, funky keys enter late in the track. This one is great for long intricate mixing. Me likely much. Rio has a new one out on 3 Beat called 'Don't You Cry'. My favorite interpretation is the 'Andy Jarrod vs. Freeloader Dub'. It's a solid progressive number that will work at just about point in the evening. It is an interesting composition of dissimilar elements resulting in a richly layered and textured piece. Bleepy mid elements flicker over a swelling bassline. A dubby filtered vocal clips under swirling atmospheric overtones. I dig it.

So, there's a run down of what's in my crate at the moment. Questions? Comments? Feedback? Word.

Barbarella
barbarella@freebass.tv

Trance / Techno
Hard Trance
12" Reviews

Clubspeakers
Have You Ever
CLUBLAND [GER] CLR024R
TRANCE This an uplifting trancer using the "Have You Ever Been Mellow" vocal. This twelve features remixes by Pulsedriver, Plug N Play, and Balloon. This track is one to look out for. . . It's already in high demand all over.

Mishka's Mad Gay Mafia
The Research EP
EF- ADRINE [UK] EF021
ACID TECHNO The London superstar re launches his label for the new year. The Mafia is back and now in full effect to conquer the scene. Melding genres together to grab the crowd. This is Andy Farley's favorite label so this is another reason why you need to ACT FAST!!!

Danny G
May Day
KATTIVA RECORDS [ITA]
KATT001
TECHNO This techno record takes the genre to the limits. With acid stabs that could rip you apart. This twelve is one to add to the crate. TI crosses between trance and techno with some hard trance style elements. Take this one to bank because it a keeper!!!

Woody Van eyden
Together
KONTOR [GER] KONTOR206
TRANCE This is an uplifting trance track remix of early nineties fame The Farm's "All Together Now." This classic is turned over to a commercial trance version with an Alex Morph remix on the flip. This is one track to grab. ACT FAST!!!

Mad E Fan Club
Volume 1
MAD [UK] MAD2001
TRANCE This remix of a well known Queen Mum of Pop in a tranced out style. This is going to be absolutely massive!!!

S2
LA
OVERDOSE/PULSE [GER]
PULSE49
TRANCE You know when it comes to all the elements arrangement perfectly its on Overdose/Pulse. Sick productions that are leading the Trance gem to the fullest. Don't sleep cause the catalogue never sits around..Nuff Said

Tunnel Trance Force
Red Nights EP
TUNNEL [GER] TR3060
TRANCE This EP is loaded with epic trance tracks that are ready to rock! The classic trance sound that made its mark on the international map is what you will hear and enjoy on this EP. The limited edition red vinyl is a gem that will take a crowd home for the long ride. DO NOT MISS OUT!!!

Dominator
Lord Of The Rings
TRIG [GER]
TRANCE This huge track uses the theme from the movie Lord Of The Rings in the break. An epic song using an epic movie. The flip features a Marc Aurel remix. A huge track waiting to burst out here!

C4
Higher Level
UBERDRUCK [GER] UD-02
TRANCE Were you lucky enough to get the first edition? We hope so cause their needed in every crate. Tight pounding techtrance to rip your heart out while you still rock the dancefloors. Needed..

OC Project
Close Your Eyes
EDM [GER] EDM060
(HARD) TRANCE This brand new version of a Megalomania classic is raising heads and causing a stir. The classic itself is an anthem among the old skool kids and now is back with a harder remix and new style of production. This one rocks the club with a remix by Plug 'N' Play that takes the house down!!!

Visions Of Yawa
Tibet
HAREM [SWISS] HAR039
TRANCE This is one trance track that has a build that goes on forever and gives a new light on uplifting trance with atmospheric synths.This track has an emo-trance style that's coming back. This is definitely one to play for the kids at the big parties!!! It brings back the anticipation of the explosion after the break more intense!!!

Black Money
White Powder Rmxs
HOT SCORE [AUSTRIA]
HS013169
(HARD) TRANCE This epic remix features the original on the flip. The remix is a more techy trance track. Accenter and Three O team up and rework this classic in a techy trance rocker. Taking the European club by storm this hard trance is going to take off again.

Polartraxx
Inspiration
ILLUMINATE [GER]
ILLUM2005
(HARD) TRANCE Planet Traxx regular Novator takes on Illuminate with this minimal trance track. With techno influence and atmospheric synths this record is one big seller. This is quality production and a great Illuminate debut!!!

Bassraiders
Prepare to Qualify
KONTOR [GER] KONTOR197
TRANCE Pumpin' it up for the trounce heads across the world with the ultra epic yet hard and thick trance. Produced by DJ Gullium and DJ AT WORK and they are takin' trance to new levels with the sick synths that qualify under quality trance. Peep the flip for remixes by Derler & Klitzing and the sick ass rumbler of a five in the morning techno killer remix by non other than Kaylab. Great Kontor track, not to be missed.

DJ Ax Vnox
Symmetries
MB [GER] MXY007
(HARD) TRANCE This hard trancer is one to grab. With the remixes by Liquid Child and Casseopaya, two of [GER]many's premiere producers at the helm all hell will break loose. This is a gem on its own with the original on the A side and two awesome remixes on the flip. This is one to grab so ACT FAST!!!

DJ Sakin & Friends
Little Paradise
OVERDOSE [GER] DOSE87
TRANCE What is this.? The [GER]man techno mad man Dj Sakin from the well known "Prodo-X" club and "Overdose hit" Protect Your Mind"! If you remember that's the track with the epic "Braveheart samples that has rock many clubs worldwide. This phat, deep, epic trancer also contains a remix by "Global Cee that rocks the spot, so check it. Keep your eyes peeled on the Overdose/Pulse camp and more from DJ Sakin & Friends!!

Wavetraxx
Freedom / The Rithem
PLANET TRAXX [GER]
PTRAXX2020
TRANCE Wavetraxx aka DJ Century is making headway across Europe with this 12", Getting plays in all the clubs and making its way up the dance charts. This one is a gem so ACT FAST!!!

Vanox & Scandle
The Prime Suspect
PRIME [SWISS] PRIME001
TRANCE "The United States will do what it takes to win this war" and it will do whatever on this patriotic epic trancer. Good hard anthem like sound with the key Bush sample to get the peek of the emotional ocean on the cusp of a new dawn.

Lemond Pascal
Movin Around
SHAH [GER] SHAH2008
TRANCE Another DJ Shah production with added flavour from the Pasha Brothers. Is been awhile since we've had a Shah release, but with a steady reputation and classic anthematic releases this is sure to please..

DJ Subsonic & DJ Indian
Challenge
TURNING WHEEL [GER]
WHT004
(ACID) TRANCE If you dig the Smitten style of trance this is like it with an edge. The acid stabs and the atmospheric synth in the background grabs you and sucks you in. This is one record that could make the crowd go mad for more!!! The extended remix is for the big parties to get the crowd up and moving. This is one record NOT TO MISS!!!

Twister Silence
Listen To Me Mama PT.2
UNSUBMISSIVE [GER]
USM055R
(TECH)TRANCE Now this is more like it..Consistancy! Already the massive remixes to add to this dynamic edition. Contains all the necessary elements derived from the original but with a twist. Strong Dj Essential Team & Groove Electronic remixes. Put your pre-sales in early cause the first release sold out an hour & so will part too.Nuff Said..

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